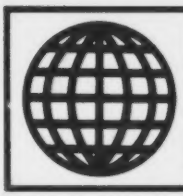

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Cairo Reportedly Ready To Host Syria-PLO Meeting

JN0701084590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Jan (WAKH)—Diplomatic sources have said that Cairo has displayed its readiness to host a Syrian-Palestinian meeting that would normalize Syrian-Palestinian ties and bring back the dissident Palestinian factions into the PLO framework.

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD quoted these sources as saying that Cairo has actually received a response from Damascus confirming Syria's readiness to support all efforts that seek to enhance the Palestinian struggle and close Arab ranks.

These sources added that a reconciliation plan is currently under consideration by Cairo, Damascus, and the PLO; not to mention the plan drawn up by Khalid al-Fahum, leader of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF], a copy of which was delivered to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during the meeting that he held with PNSF representatives in Damascus the day before yesterday.

Cairo Rejects Mediation With Syria on Prisoners

JN0601160190 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD has learned from Egyptian diplomatic sources that Cairo rejected an Israeli request to mediate with Syria to obtain the release of Israeli soldiers who, Israel claims, are held captive by Syria.

The sources said the Israeli request, which was conveyed via the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv, suggests that President Husni Mubarak intercede with President Hafiz al-Asad during their forthcoming meeting to settle the issue of Israeli prisoners.

Syria, Iraq Said Willing To Accept Arab Mediation

JN0601171890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 4 Jan 90 p 21

[Text] Cairo—An informed diplomatic source yesterday told AL-ITTIHAD that Cairo is currently mediating to contain the differences among some of the Arab countries.

The source said these efforts seek an Arab mini-summit that will include Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordanian monarch King Husayn, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for a discussion of differences between Syrian and Iraqi views.

The source said that during the recent visit of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to Cairo and that of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to Iraq, Syria and Iraq expressed their willingness to such a meeting.

The source added that Cairo will witness intensive Arab diplomatic activity in January. This activity comes within the framework of Egypt's efforts to unify Arab ranks. President Mubarak is due to meet with a number of Arab leaders within short intervals this month. President Mubarak will meet with the Syrian, Iraqi, and Libyan presidents, King Husayn of Jordan, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Kuwaiti heir apparent Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah.

The source said these meetings will promote Arab relations.

Informed diplomatic circles expect that Arab relations will make considerable progress in the coming phase and that the missing link in Arab unity will be found. All this is based on the Arab leaders' strong conviction that this unity has become an inevitable necessity to face united Europe in 1992 as well as current international changes.

Arab League's Klibi Welcomes Husayn Peace Plan

LD0501190690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1430 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 5 Jan (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary Chadli Klibi Friday welcomed the peace plan announced today by President Saddam Husayn as a significant contribution to advance the peace process between Iraq and Iran and between Iran and neighbouring states in the region.

He also hoped for Iran's positive response to the new peace proposals made by the Iraqi president in a nationwide speech marking Iraq's Army Day.

Commenting on President Saddam's proposals, Klibi said 'direct talks between representatives of two peoples bound by common close ties throughout history is the ideal means for reconciliation and creation of an atmosphere of confidence, which is a pre-requisite for the peace process.'

He added that the exchange of prisoners of war between Iraq and Iran and the re-opening of the common border before visitors of holy sites will put Iraqi-Iranian ties in their real perspective of sharing the same Moslem ideals and heritage, uniting both peoples.

'We hope,' Klibi said, 'that Iraq's new proposals will find response from the Iranian leadership and will lead to opening of a new chapter in Iran's relations with all its neighbours in the region.'

He was confident that President Saddam's proposals will surely advance peace negotiations with Iran and re-establish Tehran's ties with its neighbouring states on the basis of cooperation, mutual respect and good neighbourliness that had characterized the history of relations between the Iranian people and the Arab nation.

GCC Official Calls For Cooperation With Iran

LD0301195690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1844 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 3 (KUNA)—The secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Abdallah Bisharah, called for greater cooperation between the six-member GCC and neighboring Iran, saying that it was the best means of preserving stability in the Gulf region.

In an interview appearing in the latest edition of the Paris-based ARABIES monthly, Bisharah indicated that improved GCC-Iran relations were "necessary" and have to be "based on mutual interests and in the framework of recognised international principles".

He said that "relations with Iran derive from a geographical, historical and cultural reality" and "adding to that are common interests, the most important of which is to ensure stability in the region."

He also described as "satisfying positive evolution" the fact that some GCC member countries have recently improved their relations with Iran.

Talking about EEC-GCC relations and the dispute on petrochemical products, he pointed out that ties between the EEC and the GCC were "deeply rooted" and not only limited to petrochemical products, and that both the EEC and the GCC were seeking, through negotiations, to widen their sphere of common interests.

He noted that a cooperation agreement had already been finalised in June 1988 and that the two parties were now trying to find means to implement the accord and exploring possibilities that could lead to a trade agreement.

He, however, indicated that "GCC member countries were expecting European nations to envisage relations between the two parties in a global point of view and in the long-term."

Questioned about cooperation between the GCC and the East European countries, after the dramatic changes that had occured there, Bisharah said that the situation was not yet very clear in those nations and that it was "premature" to answer that question.

He, nevertheless, underlined that though there were no diplomatic ties between some Gulf countries and the Eastern bloc countries, relations between them were "good and based on mutual respect."

Talking about Lebanon, the secretary general said that at the recent GCC summit in [word indistinct] "GCC member countries have expressed their firm support to the effort exerted by the Arab League's tripartite committee and have resolutely sided with the legal policy in Lebanon."

Noting that Saudi Arabia, a member of the GCC, has played a vital role in working out the al-Ta'if peace accord for Lebanon, Bisharah said that there will be no solution to settle the Lebanese crisis unless legal authorities in that country are given full backing.

Arab League To Discuss East Europe Developments

JN0301161290 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, Jan 3, INA—The Arab League Council holds here on Tuesday [9 January] an emergency session at the level of permanent delegates to the league to discuss development of events in Eastern Europe.

An official source at the General Secretariat of the Arab League affirmed to INA's correspondent in Tunis today that the emergency meeting that will be convened in response to request by the State of Palestine will particularly discuss the purposeful news unleashed by Zionist information media about participation of some Arab citizens in Romania's latest events and to adopt necessary Arab resolutions in this concern.

He added that the Arab League Council will also discuss future of Arab relations with East European states in the light of the developments that they have recently seen.

Maghreb Summit Postponed to 15 Jan

LD2912195689 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] It has been learnt from a well-informed source in the Tunisian capital that the Arab Maghreb Union summit conference, which was due to be held on 9 and 10 January, has been postponed to 15 and 16 January.

Foreign ministers of the five countries will meet prior to the summit on 12 and 13 January, and undersecretaries for Maghreb affairs are to meet on 9 and 10 January. In preparation for the summit, [Tunisian] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali presided over an inner cabinet meeting today.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Bala'wi Confers With U.S. Envoy in Tunis

JN0801173290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The PLO's representative in Tunis, Hakam Bal'awi, has met with Robert Pelletreau, U.S. ambassador in Tunis, to review current efforts to achieve progress in the Middle East peace process. Bal'awi received the U.S. ambassador the day before yesterday as part of the continued Palestinian-U.S. dialogue to advance the peace process.

'High-Level' Source on Upgrading U.S. Dialogue

JN0901092490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 90 pp 1, 16

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] The PLO is closely following current developments in Eastern Europe, which is viewed as a staunch supporter of the PLO—a supporter that has continued to provide unlimited backing for Palestinian rights. PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim returned from East Berlin the day before yesterday where he was on an urgent mission described as a private visit during which he met with GDR officials.

Milhim has chosen not to divulge the purpose of this mission. However, he said that he briefed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of his visit in a telephone conversation yesterday morning.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Milhim added that the PLO Political Department is holding intensive contacts to convene a meeting for the PLO's ambassadors in the capitals of the socialist bloc's member states to discuss and assess the new situation in the wake of the changes that have taken place there and the future of Palestinian ties with these states.

Palestinian sources have not ruled out the possibility that there will be a series of transfers involving some Palestinian ambassadors there because of their inability to predict Eastern European developments and for failing to put the Palestinian leadership in the picture of these developments—something that would have allowed the leadership to deal with these developments in light of the information that these ambassador's could have provided.

In reply to a question, Milhim said that he does not have any accurate information on the U.S. State Department spokesman's statement that progress has been made in the way of arranging a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue meeting. He added that what is being said in this regard is mere speculation.

Milhim added: We have not laid any conditions on the Israeli Government as regards the composition of its delegation to the dialogue. How then are we to allow it to interfere in a matter that is purely Palestinian and that is one of the most basic rights of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? He went on to say: This is a right that we will never relinquish. Besides, this right is not negotiable. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is wasting time on marginal issues in a bid to impede progress and give his forces additional time not to quash the intifadah, as they have failed to do so, but to alleviate the pressure of this intifadah in case the dialogue is launched and also to deprive the Palestinian interlocutor of a big pressure card.

In a related development, a high-level Palestinian source has said that Palestinian-U.S. ties will soon witness a remarkable improvement despite the fact that the bilateral Tunis dialogue has been deadlocked.

The source added that it has been decided to upgrade the level of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue to one higher than the ambassadorial one. He indicated that the names of negotiators from the two sides will be announced within the next few days.

PLO Refuses To Reveal Negotiators' Names to U.S.

JN0601170490 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
4 Jan 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The PLO has refused to provide the U.S. Administration with the names of members of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed negotiations with Israel. Diplomatic Arab circles in Cairo said the PLO reserved the right to announce the names in due course. According to these circles, the PLO completed the formation of the Palestinian delegation a long time ago and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will during his next visit to Cairo discuss with President Husni Mubarak Palestinian conditions for a dialogue with Israel. The PLO wants the dialogue to be open and not confined to the issue of elections in the occupied Arab territories. It also wants recognition that the dialogue will be a prelude to an international peace conference.

According to the circles, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will ask U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during the trilateral meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States, and Israel, to upgrade the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue during the coming stage, and not keep it at the level of U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau.

Meanwhile, Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo said a meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad will be held in Damascus this month. The presidents will discuss coordination of stands during the coming stage and review Syrian views on the Baker proposals before the trilateral meeting of Egypt, the United States, and Israel. The sources stressed that President Mubarak will seek to persuade President al-Asad to join the peace process in order to create an Arab pressure force against Israel. The Egyptian-Syrian summit will also take up the possibility of negotiations with the United States and Israel concerning the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Syrian-PLO Reconciliation Reportedly Deadlocked

JN0801200290 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
7 Jan 90 p 30

[By Fatimah Mansur]

[Text] Prominent Palestinian sources have stated that current efforts to bring about Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation have reached a dead end. The sources said that the reconciliation was scheduled to take place this month and a Palestinian delegation under Faruq Qaddumi was to leave for Damascus in the event that Syria agreed to receive it.

The sources said that Egypt is exerting intensive efforts with Syria to convince it to clear the atmosphere with the

PLO, especially as this will further enhance the unity of Arab ranks and will assist the Palestinian cause; because every effort would then be directed toward the intifadah and to put pressure on the United States and Israel to acknowledge Palestinian rights and agree to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Following the Sidon incidents, the PLO asked the Syrian leadership to receive the Palestinian delegation under Faruq Qaddumi. It also called on the Syrian leadership to expedite this meeting to foil any attempt to prevent such a meeting.

In a previous statement to AL-ANBA', Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf called on Syria to expedite such a meeting as it would help the interests of the Palestinian cause greatly. He said the PLO wants good relations with all Arab countries, without exception, particularly because current circumstances demand the unity of Arab ranks.

Reaction to PNSF's Al-Fahum's Reunification Call

Qaddumi Supports Proposal

JN0601102590 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Jan 90 p 1

[By Sana' al-'Alul]

[Excerpt] London—The call by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Damascus-based Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] and former speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], for the return of opposition Palestinian factions to the PLO and its major institutions, is still generating different reactions in Palestinian and Arab circles. This is the first time these factions have openly stated their desire to return to the Palestinian legitimate bodies without any preconditions.

In a statement to AL-QUDS, PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, said these proposals to return to the PLO came late. Despite this, he added, the PLO is ready to absorb all trends. Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab said that the PLO bodies are always open to all Palestinian factions boycotting it.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat did not issue any official reaction to Al-Fahum's proposals because he is on an official visit to Sudan. This development, however, might be discussed within the PLO and its various bodies to find out the reasons behind this new move, its timing, and whether to respond or not respond to this call, and under what conditions.

Qaddumi said: "The PLO and its affiliated factions called for dialogue a long time ago. This dialogue was held in Algiers. In the wake of this dialogue, the Amman accord was canceled. And the PNC 18th Session in Algiers was a national unity meeting. If other voices call for this course, the PLO, with all its factions, welcomes all these trends for whose sake the PNC 18th Session convened."

Qaddumi added: "This call—although it came late—responds to the policy followed by the PLO with its major factions." He noted that the focus of the PLO strategy throughout the long years is the work to reinforce national unity. The major factions faced many difficulties, and Fatah, for example, suffered from many attempts, including "dissidence" that was against the course of national unity and obstructed efforts to reinforce it.

Abu-al-Lutf affirmed that "despite this history and its details, we in the PLO welcome any initiative—no matter how late it is—to reinforce national unity." He said that the PLO's relations with Egypt were among the obstacles to dialogue and national unity with some factions in Damascus. Now that Egyptian-Syrian relations have been restored, this obstacle has been removed. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Figures Welcome Call

JN0701130590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jan 90 pp 1, 19

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—In statements to AL-RA'Y, a number of Palestinian leaders have welcomed the appeal made by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, to four Palestinian factions to return to the PLO and its existing frameworks—the Palestine National Council [PNC], the PLO Central Council, and the PLO Executive Committee.

Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir, wife of the late Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah Central Committee member, said: We welcome the return of the Palestinian factions, which were invited to attend the PNC's 18th and 19th session, to the existing PLO frameworks; that is, the PNC, the PLO Central Council, and the PLO Executive Committee. She also asserted that Palestinian unity is needed to support the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territories.

Salih Ra'fat, PLO Central Council member and member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said: The PLO leadership and the PLO Central Council welcome the return by all Palestinian forces, figures, and factions to the PNC, the Central Council, and all PLO institutions.

Ra'fat pointed out that an invitation was extended by the PNC's 18th session in Algiers to leaders of all Palestinian organizations to attend regularly the Palestinian legitimate institutions. He said: We strongly welcome everybody's return to PLO institutions. Ra'fat also asserted that the PLO's unity is now required more than ever before.

'Azmi al-Khawajah, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and PNC member, said: We strongly welcome Al-Fahum's call for the Palestinian factions—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Fatah-The

Uprising Movement, al-Sa'iqah Organization, and the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party—to return to the PLO and work within its institutions and within the framework of Palestinian national unity, which is the main weapon for the PLO and the Palestinian people to defend and escalate the Palestinian intifadah.

Abu Musa's Fatah Rejects Call

JN0801180290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Regarding the call for the reunification of all the Palestinian resistance factions under the PLO leadership, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has called from Damascus to accept the proposal made by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Salvation Front, a proposal that was welcomed by the PLO.

Fatah—The Uprising Movement, under Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], has rejected the idea of reincorporating the Palestinian resistance factions within the PLO. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has called for a Palestine National Council meeting to discuss and assess the developments of the Palestinian cause in light of the intifadah and of Israel's continued refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. Habash emphasized the importance and necessity of enhancing national unity in and outside the occupied teritories, of discarding peripheral disputes, and of settling all differences.

PNSF Issues Statement

JN0801192490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] At the end of its meeting this morning, the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] issued the following news statement on brother Khalid al-Fahum's initiative: The PNSF has studied the developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas, as well as the proposal put forth by brother Khalid al-Fahum, [former] speaker of the Palestine National Council and PNSF chairman. The PNSF decided to pursue these discussions in future meetings.

The PNSF reaffirmed its eagerness to preserve Palestinian national unity on the basis of adherence to national principles, particularly the Palestinian National Charter, and to national resolutions that do not conflict with the charter. The PNSF stated that such unity should be based on a critical reassessment by the PLO of its policies in the past and on abiding once again by the national charter and the national constants.

PNC Speaker Challenges Habash's Call for Session

JN0901101890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 20

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—The Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, has said that Dr George Habash does not have the right to call for an emergency session of the PNC. He added that the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC bureau are considering the call. He went on to say that the PNC will be called into session if it is found that there is a pressing need for doing so.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: The PNC's term has ended. We are currently working to form a new PNC. The preparation committee which I chair is holding meetings for this purpose. This committee has not yet completed its mission.

'Arafat Interviewed on Palestinian 'Struggle'

LD0801190790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by JANA and PANA; date, place not given]

[Text] Tripoli, 8 A'ina al-Nar [January], ARAB MAGHREB UNION POOL, JANA—President 'Arafat stressed that the popular revolution will continue until all Palestinian soil is liberated. In an interview with JANA and PANA he stated that every child, woman, man, and elderly person is saying the intifadah will continue, with God's help, until the Palestinian flag is raised over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem, highlighting that Jerusalem is the decisive point in the struggle between the Zionist enemy and us, as it is the capital of the state of Palestine.

He noted the Zionist enemy tried more than once to destroy the foundation stone of the Temple of Solomon, which is a flagrant challenge to the Arab and Islamic nations.

President 'Arafat stressed that rights are to be taken and not granted, noting that the child, (the woman), the freedom fighter, and the militant in Palestine will recover their usurped rights from the Zionists. He added [passage indistinct] but we are fighting to establish a comprehensive and just peace on our land, the land of peace, stressing that establishing the Palestinian state will stop the Zionist dream of expansion, which aims to drive its ambitions from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Palestinian President 'Arafat affirmed that what is called Israel was originally a European project, and then it passed from a European project to an American one.

In his interview with JANA and PANA, he says that the United States gives unlimited assistance to the Zionist enemy, materially, economically, politically, and in the domain of information. He stressed that the United States used the veto in favor of the Zionist enemy six times in 1989 alone, adding that without this American assistance, the Zionist enemy would not be able to continue its aggression and assaults against our masses, and would not be able to continue its occupation of our lands.

He said the United States considers the Zionist enemy to be a spearhead in our region, and a new colonial, bridgehead in the Arab region. 'Arafat further underlined that the United States' need for this imperialist, Zionist base should be taken into account by us after the

Malta summit and after the accord between the United States and the Soviet Union.

'Arafat urged the Arab nation to adopt a unified position with which to face developments and changes in the nineties. He said such a position is dictated by circumstances underway and imposed by the conspiracies hatched against the Arab nation and against the Palestinian Arab people.

He said: We must all step up the struggle against the enemies and we must enter the new era with an effective and influential power, stressing that the Palestinian rifle is continuing the combat until the complete liberation of Palestine. 'Arafat called for the unification of the Lebanese and Palestinian rifles in southern Lebanon to confront the Zionist invasion.

The region of southern Lebanon is a sensitive zone, he said, in which rifles should be unified, and the Arab countries should open up their borders to action by Palestinian freedom fighters.

The Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, emphasized that the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Arab nation have a number of options with which to face American attitudes and their unlimited support of the Zionist enemy. He said no one can contain the Palestinian struggle and no one can contain the Arab nation. He said: I personally have no relation with Camp David accords. However, I consider it my battle and the battle of the Egyptian people, and I and the Egyptian people will triumph over those agreements. He called on the Arab nation to confront the Zionist invasion of the African continent and to strengthen its relations with African countries. He said he had submitted a number of proposals to the Arab League on how to confront the Zionist penetration of the African continent.

At the conclusion of his interview with JANA and PANA, 'Arafat said: God willing, we shall soon meet in Jerusalem to pray together in the capital of Palestine, holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs [place toward which Muslims turn when they pray] and the third holy place.

He added: The enemies of the Arab nation see our return to Palestine as far away, but we see it as close, and we are right.

Algeria

Amir of Qatar Arrives for 4-Day Visit

Arrival Statement

JN0401194990 Manama WAKH in English 1750 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, Jan 4 (GNA)—H.H [His Highness] the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani arrived in Algiers today on an official four-day visit at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid.

The Algerian president was on hand to receive H.H. the amir upon his arrival at Boumedienne Airport.

The amir concluded a four-day official visit to Cairo earlier today.

In a statement upon arrival, H.H. the amir expressed his pleasure at the visit and his appreciation of the invitation extended to him by President Bendjedid which, H.H. added, reflected the strength of relations between the two countries.

H.H. the amir praised the heroic struggle of the Algerian people for attaining national rights and for defending their freedom and sovereignty. H.H. also praised the efforts of Algeria in championing the [words indistinct] foremost the Palestinian cause.

H.H. the amir noted with respect and appreciation the role played by Algeria under President Chadli Bendjedid for clearing the Arab atmosphere and rallying Arab ranks.

In this regard, H.H. the amir referred to the role of Algeria within the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee on Lebanon which was assigned by the Arab summit of Casablanca to seek a solution to the Lebanese problem and to restore the legitimate authority in Lebanon as the only means to maintain the sovereignty and independence of that country and to restore peace and stability there.

H.H. the amir said that his visit to Algeria will provide an opportunity to meet President Bendjedid and other members of his government for consultation about all issues of mutual interest, in general, and about ways of enhancing relations between the two countries, in particular.

The visit will also be a chance to coordinate bilateral cooperation in various fields for the benefit of both countries peoples and the benefit of the Arab nation, H.H. added.

H.H. said that the national Arab causes of destiny foremost the Palestinian question will top the agenda of his talks with the Algerian leader which will also emphasise the need to unify Arab ranks and enhance joint Arab cooperation to achieve the cherished goal of comprehensive Arab solidarity.

H.H. the amir said that the Arab solidarity is the sharpest weapon in the Arab nation's struggle towards championing the Arab causes and the most successful means for achieving the goals of welfare and progress at the local, Arab and Islamic levels.

Meets With Bendjedid

LD0401202890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpts] At the invitation of the President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, arrived as a guest of Algeria this afternoon on a 4-day official visit. He was welcomed at the runway of Houari Boumedienne International Airport by President Chadli Bendjedid. [passage omitted]

In a written statement, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani said: I am happy to recall with all praise and appreciation the excellent role Algeria has played and is still playing under the leadership of my brother, President Chadli Bendjedid, in order to improve the inter-Arab atmosphere and bring Arabs together. He mentioned the role played by Algeria as a member of the Arab higher committee in charge of resolving the Lebanese crisis, adding: My visit will provide a good opportunity for me to meet my brother Chadli Bendjedid and the members of the government to consult on all matters of common interest and on ways of strengthening bilateral ties and increasing opportunities for coordination and cooperation between the two countries in various domains.

Shaykh Khalifah added: Our fateful pan-Arab issues, primary among which is the question of Palestine, will be the first topic of our consultations in order to stress the need to unify Arab ranks to achieve the overall solidarity we seek. [passage omitted]

Soon after the arrival of the amir, Algerian-Qatari political talks began this afternoon in Villa Jenan al-Mithaq, under the chairmanship of President Bendjedid and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani. The members of the delegations of the two countries took part in these talks. [passage omitted]

Departs; Communique Issued

LD0701145190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, left Algiers this morning at the end of an official 2-day visit. He was seen off at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic.

The amir of Qatar expressed in a press statement at the VIP lounge of the airport his thanks and appreciation of the warm welcome he and the delegation accompanying him were given by President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian people. He pointed out that Algerian-Qatari

relations do not go back to the period of independence of the two peoples only, but are older than that.

He concluded his statement by saying that the joint committee which crowned the visit will contribute much to bilateral relations under the patronage of President Chadli Bendjedid.

One last round of political discussions was held this morning at the Jenan al-Mithaq residence between Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar.

At the end of this visit, a joint communique was issued. It stressed the atmosphere of pure brotherhood and full agreement which characterized the visit as a contribution to enhancing joint Arab cooperation. Mahfoud Mannan details the most important [issues] put forward by the joint communique:

[Mannan] This communique reads that His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani held comprehensive talks which tackled, in general, Arab, Islamic, and international issues of primary concern to the two sides. These talks, in which a number of high-ranking officials in the two countries took part, were characterized by the two sides identical viewpoints concerning all the issues discussed.

The amir of Qatar reviewed the results of the meetings of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] 10th summit. President Chadli Bendjedid expressed his great admiration for the efforts exerted by the GCC to holster the foundations of the cooperation process and the joint Arab action on the path of comprehensive Arab unity for the achievement of the joint Arab-Islamic interest.

In his turn, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani hailed the sincere and continuous efforts exerted by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria under the leadership of His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid for clearing the Arab atmosphere to consolidate Arab solidarity and entrench joint Arab action. His highness stressed that the leading and persevering role shouldered by Algeria to this affect is admirable.

The two sides expressed their full support for the Palestinian people's uprising and their strong condemnation of Israel and its military forces' inhuman repressive acts against the Palestinian people. They appealed to the international community to exert every single effort to force Israel to put an end to those practices which constitute a blatant breach of international charters, norms, and laws.

The Algerian and Qatari sides stressed the necessity of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations with the presence of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

When the two sides reviewed developments in Lebanon, they expressed their support for the Lebanese legitimacy represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and the government of national concord. In this context, the amir of Qatar expressed his profound admiration for the great efforts exerted by the Arab tripartite committee, in which Algeria had a great part, to recover the rule of legitimacy for this brotherly Arab country, in preparation for the settlement of its crisis.

The two sides reviewed recent development on the Arab arena, which consisted of the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Arab Cooperation Council, which constitute, along with the GCC, a positive step toward focusing energies. They stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the three Arab councils in consolidation of joint Arab action.

As regards the situation in the Gulf, the two sides stressed their full support for the resumption of the UN secretary general's good offices in order to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table in the implementation of the provisions of UN Resolution 598.

Concerning the conflict in the western desert, the two sides affirmed their support for the joint efforts and endeavors of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which aim at ending this conflict by peaceful means.

The communique registered the two sides' satisfaction with the manifestations of detente in international relations, and expressed appreciation for the results of the ministerial conference of the Euro-Arab dialogue held recently in Paris.

In view of Algeria and Qatar's membership in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), President Chadli Bendjedid and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani recalled the agreement reached by OPEC last November concerning the definition of a new production quota; they expressed appreciation for this agreement, which aims at stabilizing oil prices in the international market.

The two sides agreed to continue to support and develop bilateral relations in various fields, to the benefit of the two countries and their fraternal peoples.

In this respect, Algeria and Qatar signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of information, and another for setting up a joint committee for economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Holds News Conference 7 Jan

NC0701181390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the visit to Egypt tomorrow by

the Kuwaiti heir apparent, His Highness Amir Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, asserts the deep-rooted historical ties between Egypt and Kuwait. Also, he added, the visit takes place during an important phase for the Arab nation, whether in the Arab region or in the areas close to the Gulf or the Mediterranean.

At a news conference today, he said the visit will provide an opportunity for the two countries to consult and exchange views, now that the situation between Egypt and the Arab nation is back to normal.

Commenting on his meeting today with a U.S. congressional delegation, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said current developments in the Arab region and Eastern Europe were discussed and that the Palestinian issue topped the agenda.

He disclosed that coordination and consultation are under way with the PLO and that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat is expected in Cairo in the next few days for further consultations with Egypt.

On holding a tripartite Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli meeting, he said contacts are now under way to arrange for this meeting and that no date has been fixed for it. He noted that as part of its pan-Arab responsibilities, Egypt is working to revive the peace efforts. The Palestinians, he said, are the claimants of the cause, and Egypt can not replace them, a fact emphasized by President Husni Mubarak.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that President Husni Mubarak's 10-point plan sought to explain the aim of the Israeli-proposed elections.

He said the Palestinian intifadah has changed the Middle East equation and stressed that it has come as an expression of the rejection of occupation.

He said the Arab-European dialogue has been a turning point in the ties between the two sides. This dialogue, he added, displayed Arab unity and the link between the mutual interests of the two sides, noting that the Palestinian issue enjoyed European support at this dialogue.

He pointed out that current world developments call for an Arab summit to achieve further coordination in the Arab world. He said the world developments require all parties concerned in the region to turn toward peace and added that problems should be resolved by dialogue, not by confrontation.

Commenting on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt supports this initiative, which asserts Iraq's stand calling for peace and for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. Regrettably, he added, the Iranian response has been disappointing, and Iran should bear the responsibility for rejecting this initiative.

He noted that the restoration of the Egyptian-Syrian relations will be in the interests of and contribute to the well-being of the Arab nation.

'Abd-al-Majid concluded his news conference by affirming Egypt's eagerness to achieve Sudan's unity, disclosing that there is a proposal to hold a round of talks in Cairo to resolve the problem of southern Sudan.

Supports Iraqi Peace Initiative

NC0701103790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that the peace initiative declared by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has come as an embodiment of Iraq's sound line and its eagerness to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598.

In a statement to journalists, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid also declared that the Iraqi initiative is a step that deserves to be observed by all parties.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister called on Iran to respond to the Iraqi initiative, which has been supported by Arab and international circles. He said that if Iran rejects the initiative, the Arab leaders must study the Iranian position so as to adopt a unified Arab stand toward it.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid described Egyptian-Iraqi relations as excellent. He said: We and Iraq are eager to strengthen and boost these distinguished relations in all fields.

He lauded the Iraqi soldier, "who performed his duty in the war and was the best support for Iraq and the Arab nation." He described Iraq's success in launching the al-'Abid missile system as an embodiment of the Arab nation's capability and a boost to pan-Arab security.

Talks With Iraqi Trade Union Delegations End

NC0601144090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—The trade unions of Egypt and Iraq have praised the nationalist stands of Arab leaders President Husni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In a joint communique today, the two sides expressed their appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's nationalist stand and wisdom in dealing with reports about the situation of Egyptian workers which were intended to harm the brotherly relations between Egypt and Iraq. The two sides also expressed appreciation for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's personal and fatherly care of the Egyptian workers in Iraq.

The two sides asserted the importance of continuous cooperation and coordination between the two unions over the efforts by the Iraqi trade union and the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad to include the Egyptian workers in the Iraqi trade union organization.

The Iraqi side praised the Egyptian workers union's balanced stand and patriotism.

The communique was released at the conclusion of talks between Egyptian Trade Union Federation Chairman Ahmad al-'Amawi and the Iraqi trade union delegation, led by Iraqi trade union head Fadil Gharib. The delegation arrived in Cairo last Wednesday.

The Egyptian and Iraqi sides had earlier held a final session of talks, during which they discussed cooperation and coordination between the two countries' trade unions.

Protocols to expand cooperation were signed today between the Iraqi trade unions of service, mechanical, and textile workers and their Egyptian counterparts.

Defense Minister Leaves for Baghdad 5 Jan

NC0501125290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, left Cairo at noon for Baghdad leading a military delegation on an official visit to Iraq at the invitation of Iraqi Defense Minister General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal. During his visit, General Abu-Talif will attend the celebrations marking the 69th anniversary of establishment of the Iraqi Army.

Returns, Makes Statement

NC0701180090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, and his accompanying delegation returned here this afternoon from Baghdad after a 3-day visit to Iraq. While there, General Abu-Talib attended the celebrations marking the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army.

In an arrival statement, General Abu-Talib said that during his visit he had conveyed greetings from President Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to President Saddam Husayn and to the Iraqi Armed Forces. He added that he also held talks with Iraqi Defense Minister General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and Industry Minister Husayn Kamil on bilateral cooperation in the military field and war production, as part of the good relations and normal understanding prevailing between the two countries.

Iraqi Ambassador Nabil Najm and a number of senior Armed Forces commanders received General Abu-Talib at the airport.

Minister of State on Kuwaiti Investment in Egypt

JN0901055590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Jan 90 p 6

[By Fatin 'Abd-al-Razzaq]

[Text] Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has stated that the Kuwait Development Fund granted Egypt 13 loans worth 87 million Kuwaiti dinars and that these loans were used to finance different development projects. He said: We are now discussing the possibility of the Fund's financing the project to upgrade the railway and the highway between Cairo and Asyut.

He added that Kuwait investors are investing in 110 joint investment projects in Egypt, 101 of which are inside Egypt and 9 in the free zones. These projects are in the fields of industry, agriculture, construction, services, and finance. The Kuwaiti share in these projects amounts to 499 million pounds, he said.

UAE Economic Minister Arrives for Talks

NC0801064490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2156 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] Economy and Trade Minister Sayf al-Jarwan and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit that will last a few days. Al-Jarwan said in an arrival statement that he will attend the meetings of the Egypt-UAE Joint Committee for Trade and Economic Cooperation which begin on 8 January. He said that the committee will discuss economic, trade, and other issues.

He noted that a program for future cooperation in the trade, investment, and technical fields is scheduled to be drawn up during these meetings. He said: We seek to develop and promote these brotherly relations, the bases of which were established by President Husni Mubarak and UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. Al-Jarwan said: We hope to develop these relations with Egypt and to seek means and channels to strengthen them.

Referring to his recent visit to the Soviet Union, the UAE economy minister said that an agreement for economic, trade, and technical cooperation was signed during this visit. He added: With regard to the Soviet Union and the new policy of openness it is pursuing, we as an Arab nation must develop economic and trade relations with Moscow.

Welcoming Minister al-Jarwan at Cairo airport, Egyptian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa expressed the hope that the joint committee, which will begin its meetings tomorrow, will approve a number of executive programs to implement the principles contained in the agreement signed between the two countries in Abu Dhabi in December 1988. He noted

that this agreement sets out the main principles governing relations between Egypt and the UAE.

'Abd-al-Majid on Amnesty Report on Israel

NC0301163090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—It is with deep concern that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has followed Amnesty International's report on the Israeli Government's encouragement of its security forces to kill Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, the inadequacy of the investigations, and the Israeli soldiers' excesses.

In a statement today, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expressed the hope that Israel will respond to the appeal of world public opinion to put an end to its acts of violence and repression against the Palestinians in the occupied territories and to respond seriously and with goodwill to the peace efforts in the region.

He said that Israel's practices in the occupied territories have been condemned by the entire international community. He added that Israel is continuing these practices, the most recent of which was its violent suppression in Jerusalem on 30 December of the international peace march which was organized by European, Palestinian, and Israeli peace movements.

Libya

JANA Editor on Renewal of U.S. Sanctions

LD0501221490 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] The adminstration of U.S. President Bush has renewed U.S. economic sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah on the basis of allegations that had been made by the former U.S. President.

JANA's political editor has commented on this saying:

We had thought—and the whole world had thought with us—that the series of falsehoods and lies, which the former U.S. President had become specialized in levelling of the Great Jamahiriyah, had gone with him into the dustbin of history on the day he vacated the White House and left the presidency to the current president. Our thought was been based on the presumption that the current U.S. President had benefited from the mistakes of his predecessor and was certainly aware that all the allegations which were once made by the former President were illusions and lies which existed only in his imagination. Consequently, we had thought that the current President would not repeat what his predecessor once alleged.

However, we regret that, merely one year after the current President took his post, the U.S. Administration is once again confirming the indications which we already had: that it will not change with the departure of the former President, and that the current President is proceeding along the same steps as his predecessor.

JANA's political editor affirmed that, in view of this deliberate distortion—whether by the former or present U.S. Administration—of the definitions of terrorism and the national liberation movements, we renew our clarification and affirmation, for the thousandth time, that we are against all forms and types of terrorism, especially that which targets innocents, the hijacking of aircraft, and so on. As for liberation movements, our position towards these is absolutely clear: that is, to support, assist, and stand alongside them until they achieve their legitimate objectives, which are enshrined in the charters of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and all other international organizations and bodies.

The editor added that we are not surprised at this American stance towards the Great Jamahiriyah, given the U.S. policy, which is deliberately and openly antagonistic to the Arabs and supports the barbarous Zionist gangs with all types of destructive weapons in order to eliminate the entire Arab existence, and given the Great Jamahiriyah's firm and proud stand against this vicious aggressive policy whether inside or outside the Arab homeland.

The editor noted that the so-called "American economic sanctions against Libya" do not have any effect on the Libyan Arab people, are not given any significance, and will only hurt the American people and American companies.

JANA's political editor affirmed that what America considers as punishment against Libya is in fact an annual international indicator for us which shows us that we are on the right path; that the causes whose banner we carry across the entire world are just ones; and that the Great Jamahiriyah is in fact a platform for the peoples who are struggling for their freedom and sovereignty.

'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli for Visit 6 Jan

LD0601150790 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli this afternoon for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. An official welcome was accorded to President 'Arafat with Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi leading those who welcomed him. Others who took part were the brother secretary for people's congress affairs, the secretary for vocational conferences affairs in the General People's Congress, several members of the General People's Comittee, a number of officers of the Armed People, and Arab ambassadors accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Makes Statement on Arrival

LD0701184590 Tripoli JANA in English 1715 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President 'Arafat made a

statement to JANA on his arrival. He said: I say with pride that no one can ask me why I come to see my brothers and family in Libya. I come to visit my brother leader Mu'ammar and brotherly Libyan Arab people. I am always proud of this relationship linking me to them especially in the light of changes on the international scene and the importance of conducting consultations with the brother leader be it in relation to the cause of our people and its blessed revolution in confronting Zionist occupation or in confronting the organized persecution, oppression and terrorism or in relation to the current developments at the local, Arab and internal level of the Palestinian cause and also in the light of the international changes taking place now especially after the sea-borne summit near our Arab coasts and their effects on the whole of our Arab nation's future so as that Malta will not become new Yalta which we Arabs would pay its price as we did with Yalta. And here and while I am on the soil of Jamahiriyah, I repeat the call to say to our Arab nation that it must unite to confront all challenges facing it now at the advent of the ninties and this dangerous decade which is witnessing important and fateful developments on the whole Arab struggle.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0701004890 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received on 6 January President Yasir 'Arafat. A working session was held during which it was emphasized that the so called "State of Israel" was an outcome of World War II and should disappear as the Berlin Wall has, along with the rest of that war's consequences. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli on 6 January on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. President 'Arafat was accorded an official welcome where Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi was at the fore of those who welcomed him.

Comments on Meeting

LD0701184990 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this afternoon after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

President 'Arafat made a statement to JANA, in which he said: During this visit I met with my brother, Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi, and explained to him the situation facing the popular revolution inside the Arab-occupied Palestine in order to face up to the insane criminal escalation against our heroes and people by the Zionist forces. I also gave him details about the hot clashes taking place daily inside our occupied land, and the determination of our people to continue its popular revolution wave after wave until the setting up of the state of Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

President 'Arafat further said in his statement: I also gave to the brother leader of the revolution details of the contacts and moves taking place, in order to give momentum to action on more than one level, as well as the importance of a unified Arab stance in light of the changes occuring in our favor, especially in Eastern Europe.

In his statement, 'Arafat also stressed the need for taking a unified Arab position to face up to all challenges so that the Malta encounter may not prove to be a repeat of Yalta, so that this encounter may not be at the expense of our Arab nation. He further said: We have touched upon a number of important issues, especially assistance to the blessed popular revolution and the struggle of our people by all means and on various levels. This has had positive results on the course of the Arab Palestinian struggle.

Departs Tripoli 7 Jan

LD0701154390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1525 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 7 Jan, JANA—The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli at noon today following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Al-Qadhdhafi's 5 Jan News Conference

LD0601204790 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Annar [January] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution yesterday evening met with a large gathering of journalists and correspondents of Arab and world television and radio networks, news agencies, newspapers and magazines from all over the world.

The leader of the revolution talked during this international press conference on the world people's revolution whose winds began to hit many parts of the globe, especially Eastern Europe. Also, the leader talked about the oppression of the Jews in the world and the peoples the popular revolution has not reached yet.

At the beginning of the meeting the leader of the revolution welcomed the journalists in Great Jamahiriya. He said "I would like through your medium to address an important part of the world and in particular Eastern Europe...then I also addressed an oppressed group in the world, the Jewish group, and also address the rest of the peoples whom the popular revolution has not reached yet.

Firstly...I congratulate the peoples of Eastern Europe for the peaceful victory of the popular revolution in accordance with the Green Book. But I regret the tragic change which took place through bloodshed and bullets at an Eastern European country—Romania. I am sorry for the victims...in accordance with the Green Book change may be effected in a peaceful manner by the masses going to the streets in a peaceful way and setting up people's

congresses and people's committees without any need for the use of tanks and machineguns against the masses.

Nevertheless I congratulate the Romanian people for the recent victory of the people's revolution though we regret the bloodshed which occurred for the success of the people's revolution.

This sudden change in Eastern Europe realised quickly the accomplishment of the prophecies of the Green Book which predicted our present entering into the era of the masses and that the masses would like to reach power and that they reject representation. They reject tutelage and refuse to be ruled by a party, or group of parties, or class, or tribe, or sect, or individual or group of individuals...

Like the sudden and quick change in Eastern Europe, the realisation of the prophecies of the Green Book were sudden and quick for the world. However, before it is too late, I would like to make an urgent and a prior appeal to our friends and comrades in Eastern Europe, to the revolutionaries in Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and Czechoslovakia and in Hungary and Germany not to fall into a serious historical trap and not to repeat the failed experiment after they have destroyed the control of one party and party dictatorship...and I do not think they would repeat the experiment of the failed experiment of liberal multi-parties in Western Europe...I would like to tell them that Western Europe will be stormed by the people's revolution and the same will happen to America and all capitalist countries which are governing in a dictatorial manner through the capitalist class which itself will be stormed too by the people's revolution. Thus we should not repeat this experiment and example which is itself being burned.

The leader of the revolution added "the revolutionaries of Eastern Europe and their masses must not be dazzled by the other half of the Western globe for the latter is ruled by a regime of crises from liberalism to multi parties. The capitalist system is a system of unemployment, inflation, economic crisis, suicide and diseases and thus a system of wars when crises become acute the last resort for it is war and Western Europe and America did not make the resources which might dazzle Eastern Europe except through colonizing the peoples of the Third World and this element is lacking as far as Eastern Europe is concerned.

If Western Europe had made wealth it was only stolen from the peoples of the Third World and hitherto Africa and Latin America are still the mine for the greed of industrial and Western capitalist countries...and as Eastern Europe is without this feature, if one can call it a feature, and it has never been a feature, for Eastern Europe is without this feature and hence it cannot have the wealth of the capitalist countries and to use it the way capitalism uses it.

The leader of the revolution added "our friends in Eastern Europe should be aware of this important issue...then, in Western Europe and America there are millions of people without jobs for the capitalist economic system is a system of unemployment...private companies owned by exploiters in the Western world when they reach the required production level and supply becomes more than demand and prices go down the owner of the company resorts quickly to the dismissal of millions of workers. The capitalist economic system is system of beggary, jobless and inflation and living expenses are very high in Western Europe and America as a result of the capitalist system based on monopoly, profit and exploitation.

The leader asserted that basic human rights are crushed to the extreme in Western Europe and America...he said the first sacred, natural and fundamental right for the individual is to enjoy the result of his effort and that his work should not be stolen from him and this right does not exist in Western Europe and America where the individual does not enjoy the fruits of his work and this is given to others. This sacred right is for you to enjoy the fruit of your work so if you worked 7 hours you must get 7 hour production. If you worked 5 hours you get 5 hour production and if you worked 10 hous you must get the return of 10 hour production for which you worked. This does not exist in the capitalist system where if you worked 7 hours, 3 hours or 4 hours and the rest goes as a profit to the owner of the private company... This existed in Eastern Europe but the stolen hours were returned to the society for the property was owned by the state hence that was returned in a different manner to the workers.

The leader of the revolution made clear that in any event the worker was wage earner in the system which was in force in Eastern Europe. He was working for the government and now he is working for the private owner in Western Europe.

He said "We are very happy for the victory of people's revolution and the victory of the Third Universal Theory and the realisation of the prophecies of the Green Book in an important part of the world—Eastern Europe. However, we believe that the vision remains unclear before the Eastern European masses and the revolutionaries who led the Eastern European peoples in this big change... It is not clear to them from political and economic sides. As far as the political side is concerned, in conformity with the first part of the Green Book, as long as we brought down, in Eastern Europe, the rule of one single person or the Central Committee or the Politburo or the party rule, we should not repeat the Western liberal experiment of multi partyism for the latter did not solve the problems of the masses in the Western world as demonstrations are overcrowding the streets of western countries. There are demonstrations in Italy, Britain, America... workers without jobs... unemployment... unfair dismissal... people committing suicide... unlimited number of beggars and their number is always on the increase. This is the liberal experiment from the political viewpoint. It did not express the wishes of the masses in Western Europe who find themselves forced to take to the streets in Western Europe and

America so as to express directly their wishes and not through parties...this means that parties do not represent the masses.

This experiment the history proved its failure [as received]. Also parliamentary system proved to be a farce and that representation is farce... If the masses in West Europe vote [words indistinct] America and Western Europe then demonstrate in the streets to express their needs this means that the deputy does not express the needs of the citizen...Why do they demonstrate in Western Europe. This means that parliaments failed to express the wishes of the people in those countries.

The leader of the revolution pointed out, at the international press conference, that America is witnessing a big farce as the American people is not governing and has nothing to do with the acts of the government.

He said "There is an aristocratic group of big owners. Exploiters and feudals forming the so-called Congress. He pointed out that the former American President, called Reagan, governed throughout his term in a dictatorial and individual manner and in accordance with emergency law.

The leader made clear that the American people were innocent of the adventures of the named Reagan and all the adventures carried out by America...he said the American people are innocent of those acts, but the American people are governed by the CIA and the Congress which consists of aristocratic and exploiting class who have nothing to do with workers, peasants and the American people...Equally, the rest of Western European countries are led by capitalist exploiting captains from warmongers and wealthy. Thus, the existing pattern in Western Europe should not at all be applied in Eastern Europe otherwise unemployment in Eastern Europe will be transferred to Eastern Europe which is free from it at present. [sentence as received]

The leader urged, once again, the Eastern European countries to reject the system applied at present in Western Europe and America...he said "I say to my friends in Eastern Europe if you copied the Western model in your countries this means that you are taking delivery of unemployment, inflation, diseases, suicide, economic and political crises and the desire for war. For when this system faces crises it inevitably resorts to war to solve its crisis. He asserted that war is imposed by exploiters and feudals in America and Europe... He added that Eastern Europe is free of unemployment, beggars and the standard of living is not expensive like Western Europe and there is not even one single beggar in Eastern Europe. But, o friends, if you copy the experiment of Western Europe and America of multipartism, parliaments, or capitalist system and applied in Eastern Europe, I would warn you of unemployment, inflation, beggary and economic crises. He pointed out that solutions to these problems can be found in the first and second parts of the Green Book and its illustrations.

I urge the revolutionaries in Eastern Europe to study quickly the Green Book and take a third way as the previous experiment had failed and was considered a dictatorship and we must not repeat the experiment of the corrupt and exploiting western European experiment which is failing.

The leader of the revolution pointed out that the world will become a jamahiri (masses) world after the crises of the Eastern economic system, the Western economic system, the Eastern political experiment and the Western political experiment based on the one party system and that based on multi-partyism based on the so-called state socialism and capitalism.

The leader of the revolution said that the final result is the Jamahiriya which is the system of the partners not wage-earners. The workers who, in Eastern Europe were wage-earners and subordinated to the state and revolted starting with the emergence of Solidarity in Poland which rose against the government control of workers living then the discontent spread to Eastern Europe leading to the present situation and that before the emergence of perestroyka...we say on the other hand as far as the Western part of the world that wage earners are subordinated to the exploiting private sector and in worse state. Consequently, what is the fate of the workers if they revolted against being wage earners of the state and against being wage earners in accordance with the exploiter who dismisses them to find themselves in the street at any time... And here they are in their millions as jobless in Western Europe and America.

The leader reaffirmed that the solution lies in the workers becoming partners and not wage earners subordinated to the state or the private sector.

He added "the workers must be partners in production and not in profit for if they become partners in production they will not go on strike forever, they will not demonstrate, they will not picket nor protest because they will be running factories through workers people's committees and take their part from their production and reject forever salary then they will not be late to work and endeavour to the utmost in their efforts. He said "in this theory lies the decisive solution to the problem of initiative which was one of the problems of the international economic order. How can we find the incentive for the worker to increase his production, for the worker would not have the incentive to be a producer if he was a wage earner subordinated to the government as was the case in Eastern Europe or wage earner as is the case in Western Europe and America.

The leader asserted that the worker would have an automatic incentive if he became a partner in production or if he became owner of the workshop or the farm. In Eastern Europe the system of partnership must be set up in replacement for the defunct system and the house should belong to the one residing in it and to be served by its residents only and for the person who wishes to work on land to have a private farm without exploiting

others and this is legal and any person who cannot produce on his own shall have the right to enter into partnership with others. This is the true socialism, the leader added, new socialism coming as a result of dialectic relationship between the corrupt capitalist exploiting system and the government socialist system which was prevalent in Eastern Europe.

The leader talked about the political side saying that the solution is not in multi-partyism nor parliaments for this system does not express the wishes of the masses in Western Europe and America. The solution, he added, lies in people's congresses and people's committees and the proclamation of people's power. The masses who carried out the revolution in Romania and other places are the masses who should seize and exercise power and the revolution should not be aborted by returning the masses to their homes while we see people who did not carry the revolution in power or deputies for the people for representation is farce and anyone setting up party system is a betrayal...a betrayal of democracy...betrayal of the people for he wants to form a party to govern the people...a betrayal of the cause of the revolution.

He said when the revolution is like the one going on now in Eastern Europe and Romania no party would have the right to rule the people who carried out the revolution, and the people who carried out the revolution is the people who should have power and the government stops to exist and the same applies to ministers, deputies, classes and parties. And this talk I direct to my friends in Eastern Europe through this international press conference.

'Source' Explains Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks on Summit

LD0801184190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jan UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] Pool, JANA—A responsible source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has stated that the brother leader of the revolution, while holding his recent international press conference in Tripoli, did not declare that he will boycott the Arab Maghreb Union's summit, scheduled to convene in Tunis during the coming days. What he said was that he had commitments which were arranged prior to the announcement of the new date for the said summit.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Ugandan Envoy

LD0801183790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today Eriya Kategaya, Ugandan first deputy prime minister and personal envoy of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

During his meeting with the brother leader of the revolution, Eriya Kategaya handed him a message from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

Foreign Liaison Source on Ustica Crash

LD0801150290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jan (JANA)—A responsible source at the People's Bureau for foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has made a statement to JANA over the communique issued by the Italian Council of Ministers concerning the incident of the airplane that was shot down in Ustica [in June 1980], saying: A Libyan Arab Judicial Followup Committee has already been formed to investigate the matter, and the competent italian judge has made a request to this committee to obtain more information concerning the incident.

The source further said: the committee in question is currently busy examining the question from the technical and formal points of view, and the technical report will be made public at the appropriate time. The committee intends to get in touch with the Italian authorities in charge of investigating the incident to clarify a few matters.

Hashish Seized in Tabruq Area

LD0801151390 Tripoli JANA in English 1414 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Annar [January] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The unit for the combat of drugs of the local people's security in Tubruq area seized a big quantity of drugs whose weight is over 205 tons of hashish.

Officials of the unit pointed out in a press statement that the drug quantity was found hidden inside car tyres in the sea in the area of 'Ayn al-Ghazalah in Tubruq to the east of Jamahirya.

A number of people involved in the operation were arrested and others are still being sought.

Mauritania

Border Situation With Senegal 'Tense'

AB0801215490 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] For the first time since the outbreak of communal violence between Mauritanians and Senegalese last April, the authorities in Nouakchott have accused the Senegalese Army of involvement in a border incident which, given the current state of tension between the two countries, could bring them even closer to a major clash. From Nouakchott, Sheba Kai telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Informed sources here said that the Senegalese forces have attacked a locality of (Messa), which is just inside Mauritanian territory south of the town of Boutilimit. The sources

said that many people have been injured in the Senegalese Army attack, but did not give further details. Mauritanian Government officials could not confirm or deny the attack.

Last week, the Senegalese Ministry Defense accused the Mauritanian Army of killing Senegalese—one civilian and one soldier—in another reported border incident, which was denied by Nouakchott. The situation at the border between the two countries is now so tense that some observers in Nouakchott expect a war, despite a commitment, (?certainly), on the Mauritanian side against the military escalation. The observers said the armies of both Senegal and Mauritania seem to have lost control of the situation which, on the Mauritanian side, appears to be deteriorating because of armed infiltrations from Senegal. These repeated infiltrations by armed civilians are covered by indiscriminate Senegalese Army mortar fire to which the Mauritanian Army blindly replies. [end recording]

Army Reportedly Not Involved in Senegal Incident

AB0501183690 Paris AFP in French 1731 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 5 jan (AFP)—The Mauritanian Army was never involved in any "so-called incident" causing the death of a Senegalese senior corporal on 17 December, stated Mauritanian sources in the Fleuve Region, where the incident occurred and the national headquarters of the Mauritanian Army is located. In fact, the same sources explained, it was "one of the rather frequent equipment handling errors committed by elements of the Senegalese Army."

"It is an established fact," they added, "that the Mauritanian operational units are far from the border between Senegal and Mauritania and that neither the Mauritanians nor the security forces use the type of grenades or guns discovered to have killed the Senegalese soldier".

According to official Senegalese sources, the incident reportedly took place in the Semme Region in the north of the country and also claimed the life of a civilian and injured one of the soldiers.

Morocco

Interior Minister Chairs Meeting on Oil Slick

LD0301131890 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Marrakesh, Jan, (MAP)—The repercussions of the oil slick which would reach the Moroccan Atlantic coasts and the moves to cope with it were reviewed here Tuesday [2 January] by a meeting presided at by Moroccan Minister of the Interior Driss Basri.

The meeting was held as part of the measures to contain and resolve the ecological problems caused by oil leaking from the Iranian "Kharg 5" tanker wrecked off the Moroccan coasts last December 19 following an explosion on board of the ship. [passage omitted]

The Moroccan authorities have set up four posts to surveille the black tide at Safi, Walidiya, El Jadida and Casablanca and a coordination body in Rabat. Also a commission was set up to follow up the progress of the oil. They also called on countries with which Morocco concluded civil and environment protection conventions to help resolve the problem.

Two French experts arrived Monday in Morocco, accompanying French Secretary of State of Environment Brice Lalonde, to appraise the extent of the disaster and decide on the material the French intergovernmental mission on the sea would supply to struggle against the oil spill. The two experts are from the Documentation Center for Research and Experimentation on Accidental Pollution of Waters (CEDRE).

France would supply Morocco with floating dams and pumps to protect the zones that may be damaged by the oil and especially the oyster farming lagoona of Walidiya, south of Casablanca. [passage omitted]

Lalonde left Marrakesh Tuesday and said upon departure he will inform the French President and authorities on the situation to take adequate measures to resolve in close collaboration with Moroccan officials and experts the problem created by the oil slick.

Saudi Crown Prince Arrives for Visit 1 Jan

LD0101205690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, arrived this afternoon in Morocco on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was received by the prime minister, Dr Azzedine Laraki. [passage omitted]

Sudan

SPLA Forces 'Overrun' Kajo Kaji Garrison

EA0801142190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of the "Bright Star" campaign overran the vital strategic garrison town of Kajo Kaji at 2100 Sudan local time on Saturday night, 6 January 1990. SPLA is now in firm control of the town and the whole of Kajo Kaji District in Western Equatoria.

The Kajo Kaji garrison was overrun in a storm attack, and most of the weapons and other materials in the town were captured intact. Remnants of the Kajo Kaji garrison fled in the direction of Juba, and should have reached Juba by yesterday and today.

Junta Said Planning Conflicts With Countries

EA0801172290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] It is to be recalled that the "Bright Star" campaign commander issued a concrete warning to the Kajo Kaji garrison to evacuate the garrison within 24 hours from 1500 1st January 1990, or face certain destruction. They failed to heed this warning, because Juba and Khartoum General headquarters were lying to them that Brigadier Isaiah Paul's so-called Quwwat Labbayka al-Sudan [At Your Service, Sudan Force] was going to rescue them.

The garrison was accordingly given what the junta's COS [chief of staff] wanted: a severe beating and rude eviction from Kajo Kaji. [sound of martial music]

The SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] does not lie. It is the junta that lies shamelessly through its teeth and sacrifices the poor innocent soldiers, without the slightest of concern.

It is to be recalled that the SPLA announced on 4th January 1990, although the junta knew that the convoy had been dispersed, yet they ordered their soldiers in Kajo Kaji to hold on. The SPLA has captured very important documents in Kajo Kaji and from the convoy, including telegrams from the junta's COS Lieutenant General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar.

Their documents clearly show that the junta seeks to destroy the Sudanese Army and to replace it with a fundamentalist sectarian army. These documents also revealed that the junta plans military confrontations with four neighboring countries as a means to remain in power by preoccupying the Sudanese people in foreign wars. These documents will be read over radio SPLA as soon as they are received. [sound of martial music]

Bright Star Campaign commander issues another strong warning to all garrisons in Western Equatoria, and advises patriotic elements to start a discussion with "Bright Star" campaign field commanders, so that we agree on what best course of action to take, rather than allow 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir to use them for National Islamic Front Objectives.

The "Bright Star" campaign commander appeals to the police, prisons, game wardens and militia in Western Equatoria to send their families to the countryside and for the soldiers to join the SPLA. The SPLA policy is to forgive and reinstate soldiers and officers into the SPLA with their ranks.

It is time to be patriotic. Every soldier must think to join the SPLA, this is where your freedom lies. Come, bring your family to the countryside so that you build houses now before the grass burns, and so that you cultivate in the coming season. Staying in town will only subject your family to stray bombs and stray bullets. This warning applies to Juba as well. In Western Equatoria after Kajo Kaji, those in Kaya, Morabo, Yei, and Juba must take this warning seriously. [sound of martial music]

The commander in chief of the SPLA has sent millions of congratulations to the "Bright Star" campaign commander, all officers, NCO's, and men of the "Bright Star" campaign for the great victory over Brig Isaiah Paul's Quwwat Labbayka al-Sudan convoy and capture of Kajo Kaji. Go on comrades, march on until victory. [sound of martial music]

RCC Official Denies Presence of Libyan Troops

EA0501102690 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1945 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Member of the Revolutionary Command Council Brigadier al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir voiced Sudan's readiness to accept neutral observers from the Organization of African Unity to get [as heard] sure of the nonexistence of Libyan troops along Sudanese, Chadian, and Libyan borders. He reiterated the nonexistence of either Libyan or the Islamic Legion troops inside the Sudanese territory or along the borders of the (?three) countries. Brig al-Tahir told SUNA that Sudan's foreign policy was based on (?defense of) the neighboring country and noninterference in others' internal affairs.

Earlier, the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, had asked the chairman of the current session of the OAU, President Husni Mubarak, to dispatch OAU neutral observers to ensure of [as heard] the nonpresence of Libyan troops there.

SPLA's Garang Gives Independence Day Message

EA0101184890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Statement issued by John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] on the 34th anniversary of Sudanese independence—read by Tombe Dumo]

[Text] On the 34th anniversary of our independence, dear fellow countrymen, I address you today on the anniversary of the independence of our great country, which marks the pulling out of the colonial oppressors after a long struggle and brave resistance of the masses of our people, in the north, south, east and west. Greetings to those who courageously resisted colonialism and forced it out of our land. History will not forget their patriotism and the sacrifices they made in the noble struggle for independence.

Fellow countrymen, 34 years have passed now since we attained our independence and the last colonialist soldier left, but our country is still far from achieving the goals for which a lot of brilliant sacrifices were made. Independence was not, and is not, a mere hoisting of a flag, or playing a national anthem. Those are just formalities. However, our situation nowadays indicates that we are far from the real independence with its real political, economic and social content. The civil war that has been raging for more than two-thirds of the post-independence period is a phenomenon which indicates

that there is a big crisis in our country. The political and economic dependency that is existing now is its real oppression.

Economic and social backwardness, ignorance, poverty and disease the majority of our people are suffering from, are evidence of ill-advised policies and practices followed during the period of colonialism. Our country is far from realizing its objectives and aspirations, aimed at bringing about development, democracy and social justice. In our country, the rich are getting richer, and the poor, poorer. The overwhelming majority of our masses are facing daily plummeting in their standards of living, and the reins of power are in the hands of the few beneficiaries.

Fellow countrymen, the question of the restructuring of power that we inherited from the colonialists is still awaiting solution. Moreover, the formation of a national army that expresses the real aspirations of our people, known for their multiplicity and diversity, the solution of the nationality and religious questions in a democratic context, all comes in point. Our country nowadays is politically dependent, and heavily laden with foreign debts. All those problems must be solved.

Fellow countrymen, it is extremely deplorable that the regime running the affairs of our country today is exposing slogans and programs which do not aim at any national consensus, and cannot maintain the unity of our people and our country. The government today is in the hands of the forces of darkness. That is, the forces of the National Islamic Front [NIF], which is well-known for its anti-people policies. The program of that tiny minority group is to establish a theocratic state in one part of our motherland, under the name of federalism, and to subjugate the remaining part of the land through conquest and war, raising the slogans of their religious bigotry and the claimed federalism. Not only that, they went as far as preparing to declare a one-party state, based on Numayri's Sudan Socialist Union methods.

That situation is made worse by the fact that the NIF is using power in a multireligious, multicultural and multinational country, with different political affiliations. Indeed, what is taking place now is harmful, and threatens the unity of our people.

Fellow countrymen, our experience in the last talks in Addis Ababa and Nairobi confirmed that the junta does not have any program for peace, and at the same time rejects whatever peace proposals brought forward by the SPLM/SPLA. They have rejected our proposal of forming a broad-based government, but instead, they proposed to strike a deal with us behind all the political forces, democratic and popular organizations. We rejected that, and our position remains firm.

We will work hard to reestablish democracy that purges itself from all the previous negative experience. On the other hand, the present regime is beating the drums of war, and tries to starve the innocent citizens in southern Sudan. It has banned all the democratic and popular institutions and trampled on human rights. It proclaimed religious fundamentalism and ethnic bias. It organized a witch-hunt leading to mass dismissal in the civil service and the organized Armed Forces, and banned the trade unions. It instituted and directed campaigns to torture the detainees, and its kangaroo courts were passing death sentences without the right of legal advice to the defendant. Those forces of darkness are busy day and night to fill the civil service, the Armed Forces and security organs with elements of the National Islamic Front, in addition to the establishment of a militia disguised under the name of Popular Defense Force.

Fellow countrymen, allow me to congratulate our masses for this patriotism and courage in resisting dictatorship, and special greetings to the SPLM/SPLA officers, noncommissioned officers and men, for their sacrifice in waging the people's war. Greetings to all the citizens in the liberated areas for their courage and firmness in confronting the junta's war of starvation.

Our position remains the same as was made clear in my speech to you last August. We will continue resisting the junta, since it is imposing itself and its dictatorial policies on our masses.

Fellow countrymen, the SPLM/SPLA position is still firm: that the problems of our country cannot be solved except through democracy and the participation of all the popular and political forces in the national constitutional conference to reach a solution to the problems facing our country. These problems have been aggravated since the time the colonialist was pushed out from our country. The present regime has vowed to impose a complete dictatorship, monopolized by the forms of bigotry on our country, in their futile attempt to monopolize power in Sudan. By choosing that line, the junta has left no other option to the other political forces and our popular masses but to struggle against them by all means possible.

Therefore, I seize this opportunity to renew my appeal that it is necessary for all the national democratic forces to unite and agree on a joint program that will unite all the forces of opposition in their struggle against this dictatorial, oppressive and repressive regime.

Fellow countrymen, in conclusion I repeat my best wishes to you all, hoping that the new year, 1990, and the upcoming decade, the nineties, will witness a permanent peace and people's democracy in our beloved country, peace that will open up new opportunities for prosperity, and usher us into a new, united and democratic Sudan.

Long live the SPLM/SPLA. Long live the struggle of the Sudanese people.

Comrade John Garang de Mabior.

Al-Bashir Gets Message From Uganda's Museveni

EA0201172490 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Two Ugandan Cabinet ministers, now attending celebrations to mark the 34 anniversary of Sudan's independence in Khartoum, have delivered a message from President Museveni to President al-Bashir of the Sudan. The ministers of information and broadcasting, Mr Kintu Musoke, and of youth culture and sports, Brigadier Ali Moses, were accompanied to the presidential palace by Uganda's ambassador to the Sudan, Lieutenant Colonel Obitre Gama.

During the meeting, the Sudanese head of state and Ugandan ministers discussed Sudan-Uganda relations, cooperation, and international and regional issues of mutual concern.

Correction to 'SPLA Claims Victory'

AB0601214490

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Government Force 'Dispersed,'" published in the 8 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 11-12:

Page 11, column two, sixth complete sentence: ...Bright Star campaign forces are now conducting... (providing word "forces");

Paragraph two, sentence three: ...meaning: O God, I have accepted your call... (rewording, deleting "has", providing "I have");

Page 12, second complete sentence: ...Paul, the so-called Quwwat Labbayka al-Sudan... (providing the word "Quwwat")

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry on Maghreb Union Meeting

LD0601192990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Following reports carried by foreign news agencies on the possibility that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi might not attend the meeting of the chairmanship council of the Arab Maghreb Union, and to a question posed by TAP, an authorized source at the Foreign Ministry has affirmed that at the request of a member country, and after consultations with all the Maghreb countries, including the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, an announcement was made on the adjournment of the meeting of the chairmanship council of the Arab Maghreb Union, which was due to be held in Tunis 9-10 January 1990, until 15-16 January.

Ben Ali Receives 'Arafat in Carthage 6 Jan

LD0601140490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage met with the head of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

After the meeting, Yasir 'Arafat said that he congratulated the president on the Maghreb summit meeting to be held soon in Tunis. He pointed out that the summit was of great significance to the pan-Arab role played by the Tunisian president, government, and people. He added that he briefed the head of state on current developments in the occupied territories and the escalation of the uprising against the Israeli occupation. In this context, he said that the whole world followed the peace marches in Jerusalem in which prominent European personalities participated, who saw for themselves the Israeli criminal action, as a result of which around 70 participants in the marches were hurt.

The Palestinian president said that the talks also dealt with various Arab issues and current peace efforts, including the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, and the efforts aimed at pushing forward the wheels of peace, especially after the Bush-Gorbachev summit and the important developments that may result from it with regard to the Palestine issue particularly and the Arab nation generally.

Libya's Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir Meets President

LD3012121189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1120 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, 30 Dec (JANA)—At Carthage Palace this morning, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, who conveyed to him a message from the brother leader of the revolution.

Following the audience, Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir made a statement to the press in which he said: I met with brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and conveyed to him a message from his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, to exchange viewpoints on the latest developments on the international scene, as well as to consult with him on those developments and on the pan-Arab causes of concern to the Arab citizens from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

In this respect, the audience was positive.

Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir arrived in Tunis this morning. He was welcomed on his arrival at Carthage International Airport by Brother Abdallah Kallel, minister of defense in fraternal Tunisia, as well as by the secretary of the Great Jamahiriyah's general representation in Tunisia.

Ben Ali Addresses Nation on New Year

LD3112205189

[Editorial Report] Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 31 December carries 14-minute New Year's message by President Ben Ali, delivered in Tunis.

President Ben Ali begins his address by expressing his best wishes to the Tunisian people on the occasion of the New Year.

The president then summarized the economic measures and tax reform that have been carried out recently to improve the conditions of the lower paid, expressing his concern for the workers and social justice. He stresses the fact that Tunisia's potential is modest. The president mentions he asked the government to devise a plan for vocational training to help the Tunisian youth to be incorporated in the employment sphere.

President Ben Ali recalls the political reforms carried out during 1989. He mentions inter alia the reorganization of the constitutional council, expressing the determination to continue to work for the consolidation of democracy. He calls on all Tunisians to cooperate with each other to make the democratic march succeed. He also expresses his determination to visit all the provinces of the republic and express his eagerness to meet the citizens.

He reiterates his best wishes to the Tunisian people and to Tunisia on the occasion of the New Year.

Bahrain

Turkish Foreign Minister Meets Amir, Premier

JN0801125090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Manama, 8 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister, this morning received Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz and the delegation accompanying him on a visit to Bahrain.

The meeting focused on areas of cooperation between the countries and on effective means of bolstering and enhancing cooperation in all fields, in addition to reviewing the situation in the Gulf and Arab regions, as well as Islamic and international issues and other matters of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, the Turkish ambassador to Bahrain, and the Turkish consul general to Bahrain.

Holds Talks With Foreign Minister

JN0801130190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Manama 8 Jan, (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz conducted official talks today in Bahrain.

WAKH has learned their talks dealt with bilateral relations, areas of cooperation between Bahrain and Turkey, and the means to enhance and bolster them in all fields. They also discussed a number of issues, including regional and international developments, and matters of interest to the Arab and Islamic world.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN0801125590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Manama, 8 Jan (WAKH)—An agreement for economic, industrial, and technical cooperation between Bahrain and Turkey was signed today in Manama. The agreement was signed for the Bahraini side by Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim and for the Turkish side by Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

In a statement to WAKH, Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim said the agreement is intended to develop economic cooperation between Bahrain and Turkey. He noted the agreement provides for reinforcing trade exchange and development between the two countries, adding it will open new horizons for common cooperation between the citizens and institutions in the two countries in all economic fields, including industry, agriculture, tourism, maritime transportation, banks, investments, and technology.

The Bahraini minister added the agreement also provides for exchanging information. He noted this agreement will produce programs for economic cooperation in all bilateral fields. According to this agreement, a joint committee will be formed between Bahrain and Turkey. He said this committee will meet in the capitals of the two countries by rotation.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0801170090 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Manama, Jan 8 (GNA)—Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz left for Kuwait today after a two-day visit to Bahrain.

Yilmaz described the talks with the Bahraini officials as constructive.

Yilmaz told GNA that he discussed with H.H [His Highness] the amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah means of developing bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest.

He also said that he signed an economic agreement between Bahrain and Turkey, to stressing that it will contribute in developing economic relations between two countries.

The Turkish foreign minister underlined that the talks with his Bahraini counterpart Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah were focused on promoting bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Kuwait

Turkey's Yilmaz To Meet Bulgarian Counterpart

LD0801163190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1549 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Jan—Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz arrived here this evening leading a high-level delegation from the Turkish Foreign Ministry to participate in the meeting here tomorrow with his Bulgarian counterpart. The meeting is to be conducted tomorrow morning at Bayan Palace under the auspices of the acting prime minister, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Official Arrives

LD0801195190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1910 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 8 (KUNA)—Bulgarian Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov Monday said here that Bulgaria is currently observing changes "that create a good base for founding good relations with its neighboring Turkey."

This came in an arrival statement here tonight by Dimitrov who is heading a delegation for talks with his Turkish counterpart in a meeting at Bayan Palace Tuesday [9 January] to be held under auspices of Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The meeting is the second of its kind between both sides to discuss the issue of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

Speaking to KUNA, Dimitrov said the world and East Europe are observing "fast and dynamic changes", adding, those changes come in conformity with the Bulgarian Government's intentions to boost international relations with all countries and neighbors.

He added the Turkish-Bulgarian relations, in light of these conditions, are based on mutual respect and the respect of the principle of sovereignty.

Dimitrov said Bulgaria came to the meeting with good intentions and firm stances, wishing success for the meeting.

The Bulgarian official and the accompanied delegation were received at the airport by Minister of State for Services 'Isa al-Mazidi, acting foreign [word indistinct] Faysal al-Mutawa and Kuwaiti ambassador to Bulgaria and the Bulgarian ambassador here.

Second Round of Talks Begins

LD0901095590 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0903 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Jan—Acting Prime Minister Shaykh al-Ahmad at 1030 this morning at the Bayan Palace opened the second round of talks between the Turkish and Bulgarian foreign ministers, Mesut Yilmaz and Boyko Dimitrov, on the issue of the Bulgarian Muslim minority of Turkish descent.

In a speech made on this occasion, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed Kuwait's ever-readiness and utmost concern to do whatever is needed to provide the right atmosphere for achieving the maximum degree of sucess for this meeting, which is taking place in its territory. He said coordination between the two heads of state [Bulgarian, Turkish], in cooperation with the amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, has added great importance to the meeting, while giving it a thrust of support to continue these meetings with a high spirit of joint responsibility to reach this issue's desired solution.

Newspaper Criticizes U.S. Action in Panama

JN0801211490 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 7 Jan 90 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The United States and the Strong Man"]

[Text] Has democracy really triumphed in Panama following the U.S. invasion and the arrest of Panama's strongman, who got the U.S. president to send several thousands of U.S. soldiers to replace one president with another?

The use of the word "strong" by the U.S. mass media to describe Manuel Antonio Noriega was designed to make him behave the way he did—to take defiant actions that would get a superpower like the United States to act in conflict with the rules and principles of international law.

Panama, as everyone knows, has been a U.S. colony for more than 40 years, and the U.S. military presence in that country has not ended because of the existence of old colonialist interests related to the Panama Canal, which is considered one of the most vital waterways to the United States.

Just as the U.S. mass media continued to describe Noriega as a strongman until he believed he could fight the United States and liberate his country from the traditional U.S. presence in the country, U.S. officials also believed themselves when they gave free rein to their analyses and statements that the invasion would be a domestic affair that could be justified in terms of law and democracy.

The United States, which recruited the "strongman" to work for the CIA in the 1970's, was able to topple him, or at least prevent him from taking power and bothering the master of the White House. But as usual, the United States resorted to force and muscle flexing to arrange a scenario to pursue the "strongman," arrest him, and bring him to court to be tried on charges of drug trafficking. This humanitarian image, which the United States depicted for the invasion and the pursuit, does not differ much from the humanitarian image Israel usually depicts to justify its repressive actions and inhuman pursuits against the Palestinians in their houses and camps. The common denominator between the two images is the use of force to label Israel's devilish operations against those it views as outlaws and occupation opponents.

Therefore, it was natural the series of policies and positions, which are adopted by the United States regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestine question in particular, can be described as hypocritical, treacherous, and deceptive. U.S. indifference to Israel's brutal actions against the Palestinians who own the land is also due to the fact it considers these practices part of a humanitarian policy, which does not differ much from U.S. practices in Latin American and Central American countries, including Panama and Bolivia.

However, we can say the United States is not compelled to justify its "humanitarian" operations in Panama and other countries as long as there still are colonialist interests. It is the right of the American "cowboy" to take decisions to prevent "national action" from these interests and to protect them.

Prime Minister Leaves on 3-Day Visit to Cairo

LD0801101290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0900 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 8 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah al-Sal'm Al Sabah left here today for Cairo on a three-day official visit for talks on promotion of bilateral relations. Shaykh Sa'id is accompanied by a delegation comprising state ministers for foreign affairs, trade and industry, justice and legal affairs, undersecretaries of the Crown Prince and premier diwan [chief aid], Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry and the managing director of the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development.

The crown prince and premier is also accompanied by a military delegation comprising chief of staff, interior undersecretary and a high-ranking official from the National Guard.

Oman

Official Departs for Iraqi Army Celebrations

JN0501142790 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] His Excellency Fahar Bin-Taymur al-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, left the country at noon today for the fraternal Republic of Iraq at the head of a military delegation that includes Staff General Hamid Ibn-Sa'id al-'Ufi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and ranking Armed Forces officers. The visit comes in response to an invitation his highness received from Iraqi Defense Minister General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal to attend the military parade marking Iraqi Army Day.

His excellency and his delegation were seen off at al-Sib air base by Shaykh Ibn-Hamad al-Batashi, secretary general at the Defense Ministry, the ambassador of the sisterly Republic of Iraq to the Sultanate, and ranking Armed Forces officers.

Saudi Arabia

Government Praises Ties Between Cairo, Damascus

LD0801200490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 8 Jan (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, presided over the council of ministers meeting this afternoon, Monday, 8 January, at Yamamah Palace, Riyadh.

In a statement to SPA after the meeting, his excellency the minister of information, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, said on the noble instructions of the king, the council examined reports pertaining to the most important political and economic developments in the Arab region during the past few days. In light of that, the council expressed satisfaction with the announcements made by Cairo and Damascus about the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two brotherly countries, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Egyptian Arab Republic. The council views this as a successful step on the path of serious work toward mending the rift and uniting ranks.

The minister of information added: The council also welcomed with appreciation the announcement made by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq in his historic speech last Friday on the anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army, which reaffirms his call for peace through the clear proposals he announced. The council expressed hope this call will find attentive ears to take it toward implementation. [passage omitted]

After examining the issues on the agenda, the information minister said the Council issued a number of resolutions, including:

After listening to the speech by his royal highness the interior minister on the draft UN agreement on combatting illegal trade in drugs and stimulants, the Council agreed on the following:

1. To accept "the UN agreement on combatting the illegal trade in drugs and stimulants" in the form attached;
2. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not consider itself bound by Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 32 of the agreement;
3. The kingdom's acceptance of this agreement does not constitute recognition of Israel and will not lead to any dealings with it or to the establishment of any relations under this agreement.
4. A committee will be formed in the Interior Ministry with the participation of representatives from the Justice Ministry, the Office of Complaints, and the Interior Ministry with a view to preparing the implementation of the provisions of this agreement.
5. The antidrugs department will be given all the necessary human and financial backing to enable it to fulfill the commitments defined by this agreement.
6. The Interior Ministry will take all necessary measures to coordinate efforts and cooperate with agents from other states to achieve the goals of this agreement. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Minister Lists Publications Banned From UAE

JN0801161690 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 8 (GNA)—The UAE [United Arab Emirates] has banned publications under a decision issued by UAE Information and Culture Minister Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Hamad.

The decision confiscated the December 20-23 issues of the Lebanese newspaper AL-NAHAR for advertising for alcohol and the December 25 issue of AL-TADAMUN magazine for harming the image of the UAE.

It also banned 10 Arab books for anti-Islam views and discrediting a late Arab president and the December 22 issue of the Pakistani daily JIDDAT [name as received] for discrediting Gulf heritage.

Dailies Comment on Saddam's Peace Initiative

JN0701115390 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 7, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today affirmed that the Iraqi new initiative fully expresses the sense of responsibility towards our nation and our people and towards whoever desires peace in Iran and even towards entire humanity.

The paper, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said in a commentary here today that that daring and responsible and comprehensive initiative, with its proposals was, verily embody Iraq's credibility and its sincere and profound desire in establishment of comprehensive and durable peace between the two countries. [sentence as received]

It added that those practical constructive proposals did not only confirm Iraq's determination to stick to its peaceful and principled approach but also displayed Iraq's insistence and resolution to continue expressing this program and embody it by responsible initiatives and steps despite the obstinancy demonstrated by Iran and its pursuit in selective and partitioning policies in dealing with the process of peace and the U.N Security Council Resolution 598.

The paper clarified that the proposals pertaining to the prisoners of war (POWs) clarify the extent of Iraq's high sense of national and human responsibility in dealing with this issue and the extent of its adherence to Geneva's Third Convention for 1949. But Iran was still, up till now, insisting on using this human issue a card for cheap compromise and rejected extortion, in a manner confirming the non-existence of human value in the feelings of Tehran rulers towards their POWs held in Iraq and non-commitment of those rulers to Geneva's Convention.

The paper concluded by saying "We hope that this initiative of ours will be a serious inlet leading to a lasting and comprehensive peace where the greeds, aggressiveness, expansionism and interference in domestic affairs will stop, and to be replaced by peace, security not between Iraq and Iran only but between all the Arab Gulf states and the Arabs and their states on the one hand and Iran and its peoples on the other."

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad has confirmed that Iraq's Army, with what it possesses of strength and capability, stand in full preparedness and permanent vigilance to ward off any aggression whatever the party would be.

In its editorial published here today the paper said that the major military parade witnessed by Baghdad yesterday marking the 69th founding anniversary of Iraqi Army, expressed Iraq's readiness to defend sovereignty, dignity and independence of Iraq and the Arab nation.

UN Officially Informed of Saddam's Initiative

JN0901093190 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations—Iraq yesterday officially informed the United Nations of President Saddam Husayn's initiative to open a new door for peace with Iran.

This came in a message Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the UN, will meet with Perez de Cuellar later today to explain to him the details of the Iraqi initiative and present him a copy of it.

Ambassador al-Anbari the day before yesterday met with Ivorian representative (Amaras), who is the president of the UN Security Council this month. The Iraqi representative briefed the UN Security Council president on the Iraqi initiative, which was announced by leader President Saddam Husayn in his speech on the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the valiant Iraqi Army.

Iraq's permanent UN mission the same day distributed the details of leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative to journalists.

It is worth mentioning the leader president's initiative includes three major points. They are: alternate meetings in Tehran and Baghdad between representatives of the leaderships of both countries, an immediate exchange of the sick and wounded prisoners of war who have spent a very long time in captivity, and the exchange of organized religious visits by land and air by people of both countries to see sacred religious places.

Jordanian King Meets Saudi Defense Minister

JN0601191990 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received today His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at his place of residence in Saqr al-Qadisiyah Palace in Baghdad. Prince Sultan conveyed to his majesty the greetings and appreciation of his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

During the meeting they talked about bilateral relations and the concern of the leaders of the two countries to develop and promote their countries in all fields. The talks also dealt with the situation in the Arab and international arenas, and the means to achieve Arab solidarity and reach a just settlement of all conflicts in the region.

'Aziz Meets PLO's Qaddumi in Baghdad 8 Jan

JN0801193090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minsiter of the State of Palestine, who currently is visiting Iraq. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question, both Arab and international, and a number of Arab and international political issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Nizar Hamdun, acting head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department, and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Baghdad.

USSR's Arkhipov Leaves Baghdad Following Visit

JN0801203290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—The Soviet delegation, led by Soviet Deputy Defense Minister General Vladimir Arkhipov, today left Baghdad.

In a statement to INA, Gen Arkhipov expressed satisfaction at the Iraqi peace initiative—announced by President Saddam Husayn in his historic speech on the Iraqi Army's 69th anniversary—to achieve peace and security in the region. He said: In the great victory parade, I saw modern weapons [words indistinct]. I wish the Iraqi Armed Forces all progress and success.

Gen Arkhipov was seen off at the airport by the staff lieutenant general the assistant chief of staff [title as received], a number of senior Armed Forces officers, and the Soviet charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

Trade Minister Announces New 1990 Import Plan

JN0701212090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih today announced the start of a new import plan for the current year. The plan will cost 2,706,369,000 dinars. During his meeting today with representatives of Arab and foreign newspapers and news agencies, the trade minister said the adoption of the import plan for 1990 underscores Iraq's determination to build a strong national economy under President Saddam Husayn.

He added this includes trends and priorities for securing requirements for the production of basic commodities, medicine, and agricultural and industrial items; the establishment of investment projects in developments areas; and the transportation, communications, oil, and petroleum industry sectors.

The trade minister pointed out the new import plan will concentrate on import allocations reaching 0.063 of the overall plan. He said the plan will lead to an effective mechanism for these sectors—a mechanism that will represent an increase in production and a drop in the debt of $3 billion this year.

The trade minister also said allocations for the industrial sector reached 0.043 percent last year and allocations for the agricultural sector reached 0.094 percent of the overall plan, while allocations for the trade sector amounted to 704 million dinars, equivalent to 0.032 percent of last year's allocations. This amount was used in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

He pointed out 973 million Iraqi dinars have been allocated to intermediate commodities, and capital goods have received a 54 percent increase against last year's 25 percent.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih said the export plan aims to attain a 57 percent boost in traditional Iraqi exports, in addition to increases of 42 percent in the socialist sector's exports and 111 percent in the private sector's.

The plan has earmarked 13 million dinars for the exports of the mixed sector.

The trade minister emphasized this year's budget plan seeks to reduce the budget deficit and secure a surplus of goods by relying on production capacity, increased exports, and reduced government spending in the current budget by 4 percent.

Elections Planned; Response to U.S. Detailed

TA0901102590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Yo'av Qarni]

[Excerpts] In anticipation of the possibility a meeting between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation soon may become feasible, a team of Foreign Ministry experts recently has begun formulating a detailed plan for elections in the territories. It has been learned that among other issues, the team will deal with the division of the West Bank and Gaza Strip into voting regions, but will pass over the Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

The team will present the foreign minister with recommendations concerning technical details on the organization and supervision of the elections, as well as the definition of eligible voters. The team includes Salay Meridor, the foreign minister's policy adviser; Robby Sabel, the ministry's legal adviser and his assistant Alan Baker; and two outside experts: Me'ir Gabay, the Civil Service commissioner, who had headed a committee which dealt with elections for an autonomy council, and Ehud Shilat, Interior Ministry supervisor of elections. The team's work will be based on a document Gabay had submitted to the Cabinet in the past, which will be adapted to the present requirements. [passage omitted]

Tomorrow the Inner Cabinet will hold its first discussion of Secretary of State James Baker's draft proposal of assurances to Israel received by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. A document detailing the proposed Israeli response has been drafted in preparation for the Inner Cabinet meeting. A team, which includes Salay Meridor and Rubinstein and which is headed by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, proposes demanding Baker delete the restricting phrase "in the present stage" from the commitment stating the United States is not aiming at negotiations between Israel and the PLO. The team further suggests standing firm on the demand Israel be involved in contacts on the composition of the Palestinian delegation and that the opening speeches be restricted to issues agreed on in advance.

At the same time as the Cabinet debate—which is not expected to end with resolutions, but rather with a mandate to the forum of four to continue the contacts with the United States toward a foreign ministers meeting—a discussion of assurances to the PLO and to Israel is expected to take place between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who is in Cairo for that purpose. U.S. sources said yesterday the administration expects a response from the parties.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last night denied reports he had agreed to the formula allowing the inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

Inner Cabinet To Discuss U.S. 'Assurances'

TA0701121290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Inner Cabinet will discuss on Wednesday the answers brought back by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein from the U.S. Government on the assurances Israel requested to make progress in the political process. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

Good day from the Prime Minister's Office. One minister who left the meeting said with satisfaction: The prime minister did not dismiss anybody today. That does not mean that serious issues, such as the shooting incidents at Hamat Gader, were not on the agenda. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reported on the incidents in the Hamat Gader area last week.

After the meeting, the Cabinet secretary said that Israel regards the Jordanian Government as responsible for preventing hostile actions from its territory against Israel. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] increased its activities in order to prevent shootings and infiltrations by terrorist squads from Jordan into Israel.

Minister Ari'el Sharon asked the prime minister whether the document published in YEDI'OT AHARONOT on Friday is correct. It was the alleged draft letter written by U.S. Secretary of State Baker to Israel in response to the assurances—or assumptions—Jerusalem requested to permit progress in the political process. The prime minister announced that the issue would be raised in the Inner Cabinet at its upcoming meeting on Wednesday morning. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 7 January in a report by political correspondent Natan Gutman adds that "Minister Gad Ya'aqobi will become the Alignment's sixth member in the Inner Cabinet instead of Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who was dismissed by Shamir last week," and will participate in Wednesday's meeting.

["Education and Culture Minister Yitzhaq Navon asked the prime minister whether reports that Israeli irrigation experts plan to divert the Nile in Ethiopia are correct. The prime minister replied unequivocally: Utter rubbish."]

U.S. Urged Not To Make False Promises

TA0801131390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 90 p 9

[Dan Margalit commentary: "No Cosmetics"]

[Text] A game of cat and mouse in the ruling party: Several months ago, Ari'el Sharon demanded Shamir convene the Likud Central Committee. The prime minister replied to the constraints minister he would do so in due time. The industry and trade minister whispered his rival really does not want to do it. Shamir's office said in reply that the fact that Sharon does no more than

whisper shows that he, too, is in no rush. "But my letter demanding the convention of the Central Committee is on Shamir's desk," Sharon postulated. "When the constraints ministers really want something, they can make a hell of a lot of noise," mocked one of the prime minister's boys.

Writers of psychopolitical biographies explain such phenomena by saying they indicate every leader may at times find himself in a situation of he wants-he does not want. Both sides still carry the traumatic memory of the Central Committee convention that did not happen in July 1989.

Every political event revives the demand to convene the Likud Central Committee. The 'Ezer Weizman affair reminded Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i of their forgotten letter. Shamir announced he is not afraid. It seems a new situation has been created; Shamir and Sharon were in touch again yesterday and the Likud Central Committee will convene this month. The time has come to conduct the confrontation that had been put off.

In the political merry-go-round typical of Israel, the Weizman affair will be forgotten long before the Likud Central Committee convenes to discuss it. As a matter of fact, Weizman's place already has been taken by the U.S. documents on the peace initiative. Shamir had kept them hidden ever since Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein returned to Israel. This is because James Baker has been sending embarrassing signals to Israel: The removal of the PLO's name from the political process only is temporary. It will not be the forum of four that will determine the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks; rather, this will be done by the relevant Arab parties. Whatever its composition may be, it will include deportees as well. Furthermore, the names of the Palestinian representatives had better be published in one of the intifadah leaflets, of all places.

Israel sought a U.S. commitment that the opening speeches will not be used for the presentation of the overall Palestinian and Egyptian goal. There was no need to raise this issue at all. The United States wanted to ignore it, but if Israel insists on raising it, its request is going to be rejected. One cannot insist the Palestinian address, which will receive worldwide media coverage, be devoted to the location of the ballot boxes in Janin or Tulkarm. Israel's pursuit of the elusive false assurances only brought it disgrace, as evidenced by Rubinstein's attempt to shorten the opening speeches—as if the peace negotiations were a Knesset faction discussion with a time limit or a bitter pill to be quickly swallowed.

Western politicians meted an appropriate punishment to Israel, which repeatedly had disrupted their tranquil state of mind: None of Israel's requests was found acceptable by the Americans. Israel was not even told what the Egyptian reply to Baker's five points contained, or how many times it mentioned the word "PLO." Along with the sad truth about the rejection of its requests for guarantees, Israel is requested to dispatch Moshe Arens to Washington to finalize the arrangements for an encounter with the Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

In Rubinstein's estimate, the odds are very low the Americans will alter their position. Under these conditions, it remains to be hoped the United States will not repeat what it has done in the past, i.e., it will not whitewash or apply face powder and makeup to the Israeli Government's tear-brimming eyes.

Shamir tried to do it on "Moqed." Speaking about the differences of opinion with the United States, he assumed an air of boredom, as if discussing something marginal and natural. That was before the content of the documents became public knowledge. Last weekend, however, Shim'on Schiffer published them in YEDI'OT AHARONOT. Unfortunately, Moshe Arens also tried to behave in an ostrich-like manner. Arens said Israel is a sovereign state which may reject anything that works against its interests. The arrangement of his remarks implied that this point, rather than the opening position of the negotiations, is what the whole argument is about. In these circumstances, after all Israel's central demands had been denied by Baker, the options at the Likud Central Committee's disposal are simple: Either send Arens to the preliminary debate in Washington with the realization the Palestinian delegation will be composed by the PLO; or send a foreign minister immersed in self-deception that all is fine in Israel's relations with Washington; or leave Misha [Arens' nickname] at home.

Before the next Likud Central Committee convention, its ministers will make the good Jews of America run in circles to secure the salvation of Shamir. They will attempt to get Baker to write some artificially friendly letter, some phrase to obfuscate the bitter truth contained in his original message that has been exposed, some ambiguous formulation to be presented to the party members as a substantial shift made by the White House in the prime minister's direction.

If 'Ezer Weizman could have a telephone line to the White House, as he had had to Tunis; and if I could whisper in his ear—as Shim'on Peres had done in the course of the famous talk with Ahmad al-Tibi—I would entreat him to ask the Americans to stay away from cosmetics. Let them not promise anything they do not mean; let them not blur any reality. Shamir must be forced to confront the constraints ministers on an arena of facts and reality, not of phantasms. This is the only way his majority can be valuable and his minority significant.

Shamir: U.S. Dialogue Strengthening PLO

TA0801184790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir said that the Soviet Union is playing no role in the Middle East, while by contrast the United States is filling an important role. In a meeting with four U.S. congressmen, Shamir said the American dialogue with the PLO is strengthening that

organization and allowing the Palestinians to claim there is no reason to support Israel's peace initiative.

Arens: Baker's Israel-Egypt Mediation Futile

TA0801163390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens would not comment today on the arrival of a delegation from the CSSR in Israel. Speaking on another matter, Arens said as long as Egypt continues transmitting messages for the PLO, any attempts made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to attain agreement between both parties would be like trying to construct a square wheel. 'Ido Shargil heard Minister Arens.

[Begin recording] [Shargil] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens chose to focus on the changes in Eastern Europe. Arens said the desire to establish diplomatic relations with us clearly was evident. He stated all the countries of Eastern Europe are moving toward renewing relations with Israel.

[Arens] Right now we are hosting Dr Gyula Horn, the Hungarian foreign minister, in Israel. I have no doubt he will not be the last Eastern European foreign minister to visit here in the near future. All the Eastern European countries are moving toward relations and friendly ties. A similar trend is occurring in the Soviet Union and the PRC, but there the movement is slower.

[Shargil] Arens preferred not to comment on reports about the impending arrival of a secret CSSR delegation to Israel. Nevertheless, it has been learned such a group indeed will arrive in Israel in the next few days.

In the Middle East, however, the situation is different. Despite the rapprochement between Egypt and Syria, the latter has not altered its positions. Addressing the question of contacts with the United States, the foreign minister ruled that as long as Egypt transfers messages from the PLO, no agreement would be possible.

[Arens] I have no doubt Egypt can play a unique role. I have no doubt President Mubarak would like to play such a unique role, but so long as the Egyptians inform us they are no more than a pipeline for PLO messages, it is hard to see them fulfilling any special role, and it also is difficult to consider this development a positive and promising response to our initiative and to our appeal to them.

[Shargil] Arens added any attempt by Baker to achieve agreement in this state of affairs would be similar to an attempt to square a circle. [end recording]

Elections 'With or Without' U.S. Initiative

TA0901101190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Jan 90 p 4

[Report on an interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer; date, place not given]

[Text] "The elections in the territories will be conducted because we will conduct them with or without the U.S. initiative," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told me in a conversation we had.

The foreign minister believes past Israeli Governments were wrong in not speaking to the residents of the territories and ignoring their leadership for 20 years. "If it becomes apparent there is no movement in the political channels, through Secretary of State Baker's plan, we will conduct the elections ourselves," the minister said.

According to Arens, "Egypt and other countries are waging a war of attrition against us, while attempting to pressure us and drive a wedge between the Likud and the Alignment." The foreign minister expressed his disappointment with the Egyptian behavior in all areas connected with its refusal to keep the agreements on meetings which were to have been conducted between the leadership of the two countries.

"After the meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister in New York several months ago, I assumed we had agreed he would visit Israel in 10 days and a meeting between Prime Minister Shamir and President Mubarak soon would be conducted. The Egyptians backtracked. I believe the Egyptians are under pressure from the PLO. That is why they are not too enthusiastic about the idea of conducting meetings with us. We can live without those meetings, but they could be important in view of the peace process."

Concerning the delay in the meeting of the Egyptian, U.S., and Israeli foreign ministers in Washington, Minister Arens said: "I believe this meeting will take place. If not, it would be a very bad sign. It would mean relations between Israel and Egypt have deteriorated because of Secretary Baker's efforts."

Arens was unusually blunt when referring to Israeli-Soviet relations: "The relations with the Soviet Union are slow in developing. Our consular delegation in Moscow is not being well treated. The treatment it gets borders on rudeness. It seems Soviet leader Gorbachev does not have the time to deal with us."

It is worth noting the Soviets have not kept their promise to conduct a meeting of Middle East experts, as was agreed upon several months ago in the Israeli and Soviet foreign ministers meeting at UN Headquarters in New York.

Foreign Minister Arens believes the East European countries will reestablish full diplomatic relations with Israel. "On our part, we will act to establish unique relations with those countries."

The foreign minister criticized the Israeli media for asking visiting Hungarian foreign minister difficult questions concerning the peace process in the Middle East. "Are they at all interested? It really is idiotic to address a foreign minister of a country that has just freed itself from a totalitarian regime and is looking for ways to

improve his country's economic situation, and ask questions concerning the peace process in the Middle East," Arens said.

Peres Sees Government Dissolution in 1-2 Months

TA0801134190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jan 90 p 4

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpt] "In the event of a crisis necessitating secession from the government, Yitzhaq Rabin will not be an obstacle; he will join such a move." These remarks were made by Finance Minister Shim'on Peres before a forum of seven Knesset members [MK's] from the Labor Party's doves circle, with whom he met on 6 January.

The seven demanded he lead the party out of the government in view of the political stagnation. "The peace process now is at a most problematic stage," Peres told his audience. "If no breakthrough is made, I foresee a severe crisis which will lead us out of the government. In my estimate, it will happen within 1 to 2 months."

The meeting was attended by MK's Yosi Beilin, Hagay Marom, Hayim Ramon, Eli Ben-Menahem, Avraham Burg, 'Amir Peretz, and Nawaf Musaliha. MK Efrayim Gur, who also is a member of this group, was out of the country. Another participant at the meeting was Nisim Zvili.

The MK's unequivocally told Peres if he does not assume leadership and lead the party out of the government, they will take further action toward dissolving the unity government and replacing him and Yitzhaq Rabin as the party leaders.

Shim'on Peres obtained a promise from the participants at the meeting that in the event of a crisis, they will support establishment of a narrow-based government with the religious parties. For some of the MK's, this was the first time they had made such a promise. Peres emphasized a situation has arisen in which the religious parties identify with the Labor Party's political line, which presents a good opportunity for the establishment of a narrow-based government.

Some of the participants complained the general public feels Peres and Rabin work separately, running the party out of two bureaus; the lack of coordination between them reached its peak during the Weizman affair. Peres rejected these allegations, saying he and Rabin fully coordinate, and they work in cooperation.

Also during the meeting, Peres attacked his fellow ministers, saying with the exception of Minister Shahal and Secretary General Mikha Harish, who assist him in sustaining the assaults of the Likud, all the rest "subsist between the events." [passage omitted]

Peres on USSR Visit, Need To Begin Dialogue

TA0901063890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpts] [Qital] Good morning, Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] Let us begin with the political issues, with the Soviet Union first. When are you going there?

[Peres] The latest news I have from the Soviet Union is the trip will take place on 28 January. I have not confirmed it yet. There also is a proposal that a Soviet delegation arrive here before my trip to review the economic issues we are about to finalize. It therefore is quite possible a delegation will come in the very near future. We will talk with them and review the issues, and only after that will I set the date for my visit there.

[Qital] There are reports of a possible resumption of ties with Poland and Czechoslovakia. On the other hand, I hear there are difficulties in our relations with our closest friend, the United States, and it is not at all certain the foreign ministers meeting will take place.

[Peres] Look, I myself do not understand where we are heading. I do understand, however, what prevents the dialogue between us and the Palestinians are three factors: 1. The six assurances we requested from the United States: We could understand from Baker's five points which of these assurances would be granted and which would receive an elusive response. I do not believe much can be done about this, nor do I think we should do much more than we have.

2. The composition of the Palestinian delegation: As far as I know, the United States and Egypt are proposing the approximately 10-member delegation—I am not certain of the precise number—include two Palestinians who were deported from the territories. I do not believe there is one single Israeli who will forgive himself if we pass up the dialogue because of our refusal to include two deported Palestinians. Some sense of proportion should be maintained. A start should be made at some point, and I see no reason to prevent a start because of such a reason.

3. The agenda for the talks: I believe we all agree elections in the territories should be the central issue of the debates. How can it matter whether there is one opening speech or two, when compared to the great, fundamental move? I remember Al-Sadat's address to the Knesset; if it had required prior approval from us, it certainly would have been rejected.

I believe the time has come to launch a dialogue, because the chances far exceed the remaining unsolved problems. It is a shame to waste any more time, and I see no reason why Israel should not take the initiative; why must we trail in the wake of the initiatives of others? If Israel does

take the initiative, in terms of the time factor as well, I believe we will attain a dialogue with the Palestinians soon enough. [passage omitted]

The peace process has to start somewhere. Why postpone it? What is there to wait for? Suppose we manage to eliminate one opening speech; is that such a great achievement? Suppose there are two deportees less; will the other eight delegates hold different views? Really, let us return to our senses! You know, many people here are better at moaning than believing. We cannot moan and groan all day long! We must take things into our own hands and make decisions, some of which may be more painful than others. There are no historical reasons for us to ignore the great opportunity that stands at our disposal at this time. [passage omitted]

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motion on Weizman

TA0801183290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Our Knesset affairs correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has just phoned in the following report from the Knesset: The no-confidence motion filed by Tehiya and Moledet [on the fact Shamir had not dismissed Minister 'Ezer Weizman from the Cabinet] has been defeated by a majority of 30 against, 7 in favor, and 7 abstentions. The vote had a higher than usual attendance of Cabinet ministers.

Harari Denies Noriega Use of Israeli Bodyguards

TA0801112390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jan 90 p 3

[Interview with Mike Harari, adviser to former Panamian President Manuel Noriega, by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat on 7 January; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ben-Porat] Did you reach Israel under your own name?
[Harari] I will not go into that. I also will not tell you how I left Panama.

[Ben-Porat] Was it very complicated?
[Harari] It only called for resourcefulness.

[Ben-Porat] When did you see Noriega for the last time?
[Harari] The weekend before the invasion.

[Ben-Porat] Did he know there was going to be an invasion?
[Harari] There were preparations there for a whole year; of course he knew something was going to happen.

[Ben-Porat] Did you advise him to get out?
[Harari] I told him the ground was burning under his feet.

[Ben-Porat] It was reported today it was an Israeli merchant in Panama who brought Noriega to the Vatican Nunciature.
[Harari] I know of no such Israeli merchant.

[Ben-Porat] Another report said it was an Israeli bodyguard called El'azar Ben-Gaytan [name as published] who advised Noriega to give himself up to the Americans.
[Harari] That is a joke. The Israeli press wrote a lot about Noriega's Israeli bodyguards. I received a telephone call from Gaytan about that. He was born in Panama's Chiriqui Province. I also know his father. The man does not have and never had any ties with Israel. He is not an Israeli. His name is Elazar Asuncion Gaytan [name as published]. The man said to me: Mike, am I an Israeli? A Panamanian newspaper quoted from the Israeli press. I was really hurt by the report. There has not been a single Israeli among Noriega's bodyguards since I have known him. [passage omitted]

Hungary's Horn Signs Cultural Agreement, Comments

TA0701185390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and visiting Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn this evening signed a cultural relations agreement at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Horn, who arrived this morning, is the highest-ranking visitor so far from the East bloc countries who broke off relations with Israel in 1967. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told his Hungarian guest: Israel attaches the greatest importance to this visit. Hungary is a trailblazer, Arens said, and other Eastern European countries are watching her and will follow her example.

After the signing ceremony, Arens spoke to reporters and expressed Israel's satisfaction with the development of Jerusalem's relations with Budapest.

[Arens] We have signed an agreement for cooperation in the area of culture, education, and science that I am sure will be one of many agreements that will be signed between Israel and Hungary, because I know that our relations are going to be very friendly and very close.

[Katzenell] At his meeting with Arens, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn disclosed that his government had decided to allow the Jewish Agency to open an office in Budapest. But, on the Middle East conflict, he said Hungary's policy will be close to that of the Western European countries. Did this mean he supported an international conference, rather than Israel's plan for elections in the territories?

[Horn in Hungarian, followed and superimposed by English translation] We too are supporting the idea of convening an international conference, but of course, of this matter, it is up to the parties directly concerned, who have to take the decision. [end recording]

[In a similar report on Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1700 GMT, Minister Horn says that he and his Israeli counterpart will discuss "bilateral relations,

which are going through a very dynamic development. We are applying further steps ahead in that respect, and I am convinced that in this field, our Israeli colleagues will be partners."]

Meets Peres, Herzog, Shamir

TA0801183690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Hungary expects Israeli investors to augment their involvement in Hungary's economy. In a talk with the finance minister, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn said Hungary would like Israel to encourage its citizens invest in Hungary's economy.

Minister Shim'on Peres said a delegation will leave for Budapest next month to finalize contacts on economic issues, and that Israel is interested in encouraging such investments.

Today the Hungarian foreign minister also met with President Hayim Herzog, whom he told that his government, like other governments in the world, is reassessing its position toward Zionism.

[In a similar report by political correspondent Arye Golan on Minister Horn's meetings, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT adds: "The talk between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Hungary's foreign minister was surprisingly brief—a mere half hour. During most of the meeting, Mr Shamir interviewed the Hungarian guest: What direction is Hungary going in? Does free enterprise exist there? Is industry in private hands? How are the relations inside the Warsaw Pact and between the Warsaw Pact and NATO? How many Soviet soldiers are stationed in Hungary? Horn replies: 50,000, and they are expected to withdraw by the end of the year."]

CSSR Delegation To 'Analyze' Renewing Ties

TA0801190890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] A high-level Czechoslovak delegation is due in Israel this evening to discuss the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries. This follows last week's declaration by the new president, Vaclav Havel, that the CSSR will restore diplomatic relations with Israel and the Vatican. Jack Katzenell reports:

The CSSR delegation is headed by the director of the Territorial Department at the Foreign Ministry in Prague and will hold talks with Dr Yosef Govrin, head of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's Eastern European Division.

The visitors may also meet Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. This evening I spoke on the telephone to the spokesman of the Czech Foreign Ministry, (Libuse Dobrovsky). He said the visit was of a purely technical nature, and its purpose was to analyze the possibilities of renewing relations. On the basis of these talks, Czechoslovakia will decide whether to open an interest section in Israel as a first step or to proceed directly to the ambassadorial level.

(Dubrovsky) stressed that he would comment on the visit only after the delegation returns home. In fact, the Czechs asked Israel to keep the visit secret, and officials in Jerusalem were angry when it was reported in one of the Israeli newspapers this morning.

More Foreign Travel Barred; Al-Husayni Comments

TA0701113090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jan 90 pp 1, 6

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] The authorities have banned Faysal al-Husayni and several Palestinian activists from travelling abroad, fuelling speculation that the government is seeking to disrupt coordination between the PLO and its local supporters in advance of a prospective Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Bi'r Zayt University Prof. Sari Nusaybah, another prominent PLO-backer, was prevented on Thursday from travelling to Jordan.

Zuhayrah Kamal, head of the Federation of Women's Work Committees and a leading supporter of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was also served with an order prohibiting her from travelling abroad for three months.

Six other Palestinians were served with travel bans which, according to defence sources, were intended to prevent their attendance at a planned conference of Arab labour unions in Cairo.

Among those barred were four East Jerusalem unionists: Mahmud (Duwayk), 'Adnan al-Natshah, Sabri Safadi and Salah Abu-Ktaysh [names as published].

Duwayk received a letter from the Interior Ministry saying he was forbidden from travelling abroad for a month, because of "serious suspicion that your departure abroad will harm the security of the state, and will be used for meetings with hostile elements, and to promote their aims."

Last week Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an, and the head of the General Federation of Labour Unions in the West Bank, Shahir Sa'd were banned from travelling to Cairo to attend the labour conference.

The spate of new restrictions follows a period of about a year in which al-Husayni and other leading activists were permitted to travel abroad, where they also met PLO officials. The liberalized policy, which followed Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's proposal for elections in the territories, was interpreted as an attempt to promote a local Palestinian leadership with its own political clout, as an alternative negotiating partner to the PLO.

"Now, the political game has reached the point where Israel has to give an answer, and it has none," said al-Husayni. "They thought a year ago that they could build a local Palestinian leadership as a counterweight to the PLO, and that they could gain time. They were mistaken. Now, they've reached the moment of truth, and have responded with this move." [passage omitted]

Palestinians Claim 2 Killed Near Ramallah 8 Jan

TA0901112590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
9 Jan 90 pp 1, 12

[Report by Ben Lynfield]

[Text] Two Palestinians were killed and two wounded during a clash late yesterday between troops and stone-throwing demonstrators in Bayt Rima, near Ramallah, according to Palestinian sources. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman confirmed that two people had been wounded, but had no information on deaths.

'Abd-al-Qadir Isma'il Barghuthi, 11, and 'Ali 'Ata Nimr, 22, were buried in the village, according to the sources.

In another incident in Ramallah yesterday, a 30-year-old man was wounded by a rubber bullet during a stone-throwing incident, the IDF spokesman's office said.

The IDF announced yesterday that, on Sunday, it had sealed the homes of four people involved in recent attacks in the Ramallah area against "collaborators" and their property. Two homes were sealed in Baytuniya, one was sealed in Dayr Abu-Sa'id, and one in 'Ayn 'Arik, the IDF spokesman's office said.

However, according to al-Haqq, the Ramallah-based human rights group, three homes were sealed in Batyuniya, and they belonged to the families of three youths arrested on December 25.

In the Tulkarm refugee camp, an 80-year-old man who was standing near stone-throwers was lightly wounded yesterday, apparently by a rubber bullet, the IDF spokesman's office reported. Palestinian sources claimed the man, 'Abd-al-Qadir Abu-Turaj, was hit by a rubber bullet during "random shooting" by Israeli troops.

In Nabulus, a 19-year-old was wounded in the leg by a rubber bullet, Palestinian sources said. The IDF spokesman's office confirmed that a Nabulus resident was lightly injured during a stone-throwing incident.

In the Bethlehem area, four houses were demolished in Qusrah and another four in Tuqu' because they were built without permits, Palestinian sources reported.

A second lieutenant was reprimanded yesterday, following an inquiry by a superior officer, for ripping up the identity cards of 20 Bethlehem-area residents on Christmas Day, the Civil Administration said.

The Civil Administration also announced that it had cut off 100 phones in the West Bank belonging to residents involved in illegal and fraudulent calls to the U.S. and Arab countries.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising has called for a general strike today in the West Bank and Gaza to mark the start of the 26th month of the intifadah.

ITIM adds:

The IDF yesterday put Rafah in the southern Gaza strip under curfew for "operational reasons," during a "relatively quiet day" in the area.

On Saturday night the IDF captured an unarmed infiltrator from Egypt, who penetrated the border fence by Pithat Shalom, south of the strip. No shots were fired in the operation.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 9 January, in a report by Ayelet Mazor and ITIM on page 2, adds: "The curfew imposed on Rafah yesterday morning was lifted in the afternoon." The report also adds that a "38-year-old Rafah woman was brutally murdered yesterday by five or six masked men in her home." In addition, Arab sources reported that in the Jabalyah refugee camp, two people suffered "medium wounds" after being attacked yesterday on "suspicion of collaborating."

On the same page of the same newspaper, Avi Bnayahu reports: "According to Defense Ministry data released yesterday, more than 35 Palestinian residents suspected of collaboration were murdered in 1989 by members of the strike committees.

"Some 360 Palestinians were wounded by other Palestinians for the same reason."]

Paper Reports on 7 Jan Clashes in Gaza Strip

TA0801114590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
8 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Palestinian sources reported incidents took place yesterday in several refugee camps and on 'Umar al-Mukhtar Street in Gaza. The sources further reported that in the Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza, two boys, age 11 and 14, were injured yesterday and that in the al-Nasir neighborhood, a 13-year-old boy was wounded. According to Arab sources, four locals were wounded yesterday in clashes in the al-Shati' refugee camp. One of those wounded was shot in the spine and taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital in critical condition. [passage omitted]

Arab sources also reported dozens of youths yesterday raided Gaza Strip markets and destroyed fruit and vegetables from Israel.

A representative for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported "relative quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip. There only were scattered local clashes." Military sources also reported the operation involving the issue of magnetic cards to the residents of the Gaza Strip has succeeded beyond expectations. So far, some 120,000 residents have received the cards.

Ax-Wielding Men Attack, Torch Israeli Bus

TA0701065990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] A Dan bus full of workers was attacked and torched this morning in the village of Ibtin in the northern Sharon within the Green Line. Four masked men got onto the bus and, wielding axes, ordered all the passengers off the vehicle, gutted it with fuel and torched it. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports officers from the district police arrived at the site.

Five Reported Wounded in 5 Jan Incident

TA0601203890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Five youths were wounded, one critically, in the village of Qabatiyah in Samaria yesterday in an incident involving stoning and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus IDF soldiers who were making their way to their homes through Qabatiyah found themselves in a confrontation with residents who had just finished Friday prayers. The residents threw stones, and the soldiers fired. An IDF force that arrived at the scene dispersed dozens of stone throwers with the help of rubber and plastic bullets.

It later was reported a critically wounded 16-year-old from Janin, as well as four other youths who were slightly wounded, were brought to Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus.

Missing Conscript Was on 'Jihad' for 'Palestine'

JN0801131590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] There have been five incidents along the cease-fire lines between Jordan and Israel during the past week, the last being yesterday when a Jordanian Army conscript was killed by Israeli Army gunfire.

Informed sources attribute the increased shooting incidents along the truce line since the beginning of last year to two major reasons: Infiltration across Jordanian territory by Palestinians residing in Syria to attack Israeli targets with Katyusha rockets and Kalashnikov machineguns—weapons not used by the Jordanian Army. After Jordan blocked an infiltration attempt in October 1989, there have been fewer such incidents thanks to coordination between Jordan and Syria. The other reason cited for recent successive incidents is the impact of the call for jihad on Jordanian conscripts.

Yesterday, Jordan announced a conscript attached to an Army unit in the al-Hammah region was absent from his unit. The Jordanian statement followed an Israeli announcement the Israeli military killed a Jordanian soldier who had crossed the cease-fire lines. According to informed sources, the conscript had left behind a message to the effect he was going on a jihad for the liberation of Palestine.

Finance Minister Outlines 1990 State Budget

JN0701120890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jan 90 pp 11, 12

["Text" of speech by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah on the 1990 state general budget at the House of Representatives on 6 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Speaker, honorable representatives: It pleases me to submit to your esteemed House the state general budget bill for the fiscal year 1990, which is based on the major principles contained in the government statement submitted to your esteemed House—the statement on which the government based securing a vote of confidence. In this budget bill, we took into account the current economic circumstances and developments, as well as the ambitions we aspire to realize during the upcoming phase within the limits of current circumstances and available means.

The state general budget is a major tool for economic and social development. Besides, popular participation in economic decisionmaking is instrumental in rendering this development process a success. Your participation in assessing the various dimensions of the budget and endorsing it constitute a key factor that will enrich the financial policy and development programs and bolster the role of the state general budget, considering your comprehensive perspective, the strong links you maintain with your local communities, and your sensitivity to the people's needs, development priorities, and the requirements of the phase. All this would ensure us a sound performance of our development endeavors and help us achieve our development objectives at the least possible financial and social cost.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives: The state general budget bill is being submitted to your esteemed House at a critical phase, during which Jordan is confronting immense economic challenges that preoccupy the attention of everyone. We entreat God enable us to overcome these challenges confidently and steadily through full cooperation between the government and your esteemed House.

To begin with, I find it necessary to refer to the economic and development accomplishments scored by the Jordanian development effort during the seventies and early eighties. During this period, high growth rates were realized. Besides, the capabilities of our national economy were bolstered and strengthened during the same period. The broad outlines of this period can be summed up as follows:

A. A complete infrastructure was built during this period. This infrastructure provided us with the ways and means to accelerate the development process and help it succeed.

B. The Jordanian individual's capabilities were developed during this period. Cadres were trained and provided with the required qualifications. Hence, Jordan has become a country endowed with a trained labor force that enjoyed relatively remarkable privileges in the region.

C. The basic social services were made accessible to citizens. These services included construction of houses, schools, and the provision of health services in residential areas.

There is no doubt this infrastructure and the relatively distinguished labor force would help us all a great deal in overcoming the current and future economic difficulties and building a sound economic base that would guarantee our sons a decent living.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives: The Jordanian economy has begun to suffer from signs of recession during the past few years. In 1988, however, was characterized by an exacerbation of the economic crisis. In 1988, this crisis surfaced and its real proportions unmistakably became clear. Negative growth was registered in the growth rates of the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] in this year. Recession plagued all sectors except the agricultural, government services, financial, and real estate sectors during this year. The recession plaguing investment spending worsened, as the ratio of investment to the Gross National Product [GNP] reached rock bottom, the lowest point since the seventies. Moreover, the national investment ratio went down and the financial deficit of the state treasury increased to exceed (without counting foreign aid) 488 million dinars. This amount represents 28 percent of the GDP. This deficit

was covered by an uncontrolled process of domestic and foreign borrowing. Moreover, the deficit in the balance of payments exacerbated, reaching approximately $500 million. Covering this deficit has exhausted the kingdom's foreign currency reserves. This was accompanied by an expansion of poverty and an increase in the rate of unemployment, which reached 10 percent of the total labor force. Moreover, the government's extensive foreign borrowing to cover the accumulating deficit in the state general budget and finance the weapons programs of the Armed Forces led to an increase in the volume of foreign debts.

In this regard, Finance Ministry records indicate the external debt until the end of 1988 was as follows:

The total sum of contracted loans amounted to $11,752.6 million; $3,448.8 million of which were repaid, with $8,303.08 million outstanding, including $1,798.3 million not withdrawn yet. Thus, the net debit balance becomes $6,505.5 million.

These loans were as follows: (figures in millions of dollars)

Data	Contracted Loans	Total Unpaid	Net Unpaid
Civil Loans	4,918.1	3,822.6	3,146.8
Public Security Loans	155.5	139.5	131.7
Military Loans	4,551.2	3,231	2,406.1
Loans Guaranteed by Government	2,127.9	1,110.7	820.9
Total	11,752.6	8,303.8	6,505.5

This resulted in a huge rise in the burden of foreign debt service. In 1988, payments amounted to approximately $963 million. This figure constitutes approximately 24 percent of the GNP according to the exchange rate that prevailed then.

As a result, the government was forced on 15 October 1988 to float the Jordanian dinar and suspend the supply of commercial banks with their needs of foreign currencies in view of the depletion of the Kingdom's reserves, which dropped to such an extent they only were enough to cover imports for 2 weeks. Toward the end of 1988, the government was forced to suspend payments of its due foreign debts.

The situation that prevailed in 1988 and the economic reality imposed by it were the outcome of economic developments that affected the entire region, as well as of policies adopted in past years. This can be summed up as follows:

A. The state of relative recession that hit the region, especially the oil exporting Arab countries as a result of the decline of oil revenues, resulted in a simultaneous decline in the demand for Jordanian commodities and Arab aid to the Treasury. Job opportunities for Jordanians in the Gulf also dropped. All this led to a great deficit in the general budget, the balance of payments, and unemployment in the labor market.

B. There has been an expanded public expenditure during recent years under the slogan of reactivating the national economy and the policy of covering deficit by borrowing. This resulted in accumulation of deficit in the general state budget and increasing domestic and foreign debt to a level exceeding the national economy's ability to serve it. The negative effects of this policy were exacerbated by the huge increase of current expenses, allocating most of the capital expenditure for unproductive projects, and for widening the basis of social, health, and educational public services.

C. The high private consumption rate in comparison to the GNP, as well as the phenomenon of luxurious consumption, resulted in a gap between the available national resources and the consumption expenditure. In addition, the great dependence on importation to meet the demands of consumption resulted in continuation of the huge deficit in the balance of trade.

Despite the growth achieved in the agricultural and extractive and processing industries, the large investments in the real estate sector have reduced the volume of investment money available for these sectors and hit investments' ability to provide a productive base capable of overcoming the economic imbalance.

D. The continued enhancing of our Armed Forces, the impregnable shield of the homeland, put large burdens on the financial resources in view of the failure of some Arab countries to send fully their financial aid. This placed large obligations on the treasury to repay foreign loans for which there are no allocations in the general budget.

E. The failure to adopt sound required measures as soon as the early signs of the problem began to appear, and abandoning the exportation sector until it lost its competitive ability, as well as the failure to change the unrealistic exchange rates, played a role in this situation. The balance of payments did not receive enough attention, and the Kingdom's reserve of foreign currencies was allowed to drop under the red line.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives: The aforementioned internal and external circumstances and economic developments prompted the government to adopt and implement in 1989 a program to rectify the economic structure. The objective of this program is to stop deterioration and retreat in the course of the national economy, achieve stability, resume growth, reinforce the production base, restore confidence in the national economy, mobilize national savings to finance investments, secure further jobs, and reduce the deficit in the general budget through increasing revenues, controlling expenditure, assessing the scheduled projects, reducing the deficit in the trade balance, gradually rebuilding national reserves of foreign currency, and rescheduling foreign loans to alleviate the burden of foreign debts, affording the national economy enough time to take a breather, redress the course of the economy, and continue the march with firm steps. The available economic signs indicate the policies adopted by the government to

achieve this have produced satisfactory results. The following is an assessment of the economic situation in 1989:

A. GDP: Preliminary signs indicate the GDP has achieved stability in both costs and fixed prices. In fact, it has registered a slight growth during 1989. All sectors also registered growth by various percentages. with the exception of the construction sector due to the drop in government expenditure, the drop in the private sector's spending on home building, and of the agricultural sector due to the non-propitious weather conditions that prevailed in the country during the year.

B. General Budget: The 1989 general budget estimated the deficit, excluding Arab aid and before financing, would be 442 million dinars compared with 361 million dinars in 1988. As a result of the government's measures, the 1989 deficit was reduced to 372 million dinars when it was reassessed. This means it was reduced by 69 million dinars, or 17 percent. This is the first time in several years the financial achievements turn out to be better than the assessments of the budget. The 1989 domestic revenues in the general budget were estimated at 547.5 million dinars. The confirmed revenues, however, have exceeded this figure by 8 percent. The expenditures were estimated at 1.027 billion dinars with an 11 percent increase compared to 1988, while the confirmed expenditures showed an increase of 8 percent only as compared to 1988 despite the increase in the balance showed tangible improvement during 1989. The deficit in the trade balance was reduced by 33 percent from $1.7 billion in 1988 to approximately $1.15 billion in 1989, while the annual deficit in the trade balance was approximately $1.7 billion in 1986-1988. The increase in the national exports have contributed to this improvement. These exports reached $1 billion, with an increase of 12 percent. The reexported commodities also increased by 70 percent. The imports were estimated to be reduced by 15 percent from $2.7 billion in 1988 to approximately $2.3 billion in 1989. The national exports and the reexported commodities covered approximately 50 percent of the imports, while the percentage in 1988 did not exceed 37. The services balance is expected to drop, due to the decrease in the remittances of the Jordanians working abroad from approximately $900 million in 1988 to approximately $700 million in 1989. However, the improvement in the commodities balance was more than the retreat in the services balance. In general, the balance of payments of 1989 is expected to show a surplus of more than $200 million.

D. The Burdens of the Foreign Debt:

The government has managed largely to alleviate the burdens of the foreign debt for the years 1989 and 1990. It has taken the necessary measures required to reschedule repayment of $1.3 billion in debt installments and interests owed to foreign countries during the years 1989 and 1990, and up to the middle of the year 1991 regarding debts owed to commercial banks.

Repayment of these amounts was rescheduled to make them payable after periods extending between 10 and 11 years, with grace periods extending between 5 and 6 years at good and acceptable terms. This enabled the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] to secure the necessary foreign currency required to meet the requirements of our national economy regarding the imports of commodities and foreign services. This also contributed to maintaining a stable exchange rate of the dinar and rebuilding our foreign currency reserves.

As for the status of foreign debts at the end of 1989, initial estimates show the volume of unrepaid foreign loans dropped to approximately $8.06 billion, including $1.449 billion of pledged but not disbursed amounts. A breakdown of these loans is as follows:

Guranteed civil and military loans	$7.39 billion
Short-term loans	$159.1 million
Installments whose repayment was rescheduled	$510.9 million
Grand total	$8.06 billion

It is to be recalled debt installments in the vicinity of $305 million have been repaid to international institutions and regional funds, the repayment of which was not subject to rescheduling. The government will strive to reschedule repayment of installments and interest due to foreign countries and commercial banks during 1991-92. The amounts thereby that will be rescheduled stand at approximately $1.2 billion.

E. The Kingdom's Foreign Currency Reserves and the Stability of the Exchange Rate of the Dinar:

In 1989, the government made big strides in rebuilding the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and restoring the stability of the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar through the adoption of proper monetary and fiscal policies. Continued Arab aid to the treasury was highly instrumental in achieving this stability.

F. The Standard Rate of the Cost of Living:

The rate of the cost of living registered a large increase during 1989. The rise in the cost of living rate during the first 11 months of 1989 increased by 25.7 percent over the percentage reflecting the standard increase registered during the same period in 1988. This is a high rate that has had its negative impact on the citizens' ability to secure their needs.

It is to be recalled here this increase mainly has resulted from the big decline in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar. This rate looks acceptable, however, as it only reflects half of the decline in the exchange rate of the dinar. It is worth noting the standard increase in the prices of food reached 20.3 percent, whereas the standard increase in the costs of housing and household expenses reached 14.2 percent—figures that are less than the overall increase in the standard cost of living rate. These two percentages concern more than two-thirds of the commodities taken into account when calculating the overall standard cost of living rate. The

standard increase in the prices of clothes and shoes reached 62.6 percent, while the standard increase in transportation fares and communication and fees reached 35.3 percent, which is higher than the overall standard cost of living rate.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives:

In 1988, consumer spending in Jordan was approximately 103 percent of the GDP, of which 27 percent represents public expenses and 76 percent the spending of the private sector. Adding the capital expenses of the public and private sectors to the consumer expenses will widen the gap between the local revenues and their uses to become 29 percent of this GDP. Adding the Kingdom's foreign currency requirements to pay off the installments of the foreign debt will further widen the gap to become 70 percent of the GDP; that is, approximately JD1.187 billion. Official and private remittances go some way toward closing the gap, with the rest of the deficit mainly offset by withdrawals from the national reserve of foreign exchange and through increased foreign borrowing.

It is worth noting the Department of General Statistics retroactively revised the accounts of the national revenues with the object of updating and tabulating them to be up to international standards. As a result, it seems the GDP will be raised relative to previous years. Given these figures have yet to be finalized and published, the figures of the national revenues have been used as a benchmark to determine the aforementioned gap.

In view of the fact the gap has been growing during the years, gradually closing it now is imperative for the health of the national economy.

Therefore, the key to our success in correcting the course of the national economy is the extent to which we will be able to cut public and private consumption and channel the resultant savings to export-oriented investment. In the meantime, the private sector should be enabled to boost its investments and productivity, and exports should be increased to serve the balance of payments and create new jobs.

The government policy statement outlined the basic principles and financial policies of a comprehensive economic reform program designed to rectify the structural defects in the national economy, including achievement of a balance between public and private consumption, the GDP, and government spending on the one hand, and local revenues on the other. The government's reform program also envisages consolidating the balance of payments by achieving a balance between the Kingdom's receipts and payments of foreign currency. The program will be translated into a comprehensive economic and social plan covering the years 1991-1995. Mr Speaker, honorable representatives:

Before I go into the framework of the economic reform program, I would point out the expose is based on an analysis of the figures related to the aims of the program in percentage rather than in absolute terms. Following are the most important:

1. The gradual reduction of consumption from 103 percent of the GDP in 1988 to 90 percent in 1993. Concurrently, the national savings are anticipated to rise from minus 3 percent of the GDP in 1988 to 8 percent of the GDP in 1993. The fall in the dinar's exchange rate should result in reduced consumption and increased savings.

2. Overall investments gradually will go up from 26 percent in 1988 to 27 percent in 1993, with investments of the private sector accorded priority with the object of raising them from 15 percent in 1989 to 16 percent in 1993, during which the aim should be to stabilize government investments to be 11 percent of the GDP.

3. Boosting the rates of real growth from minus 2 percent in 1988 to 3 percent in 1990, and approximately 4 percent in 1992 and 1993. Per capita income is projected to begin rising gradually and moderately as of 1990. The per capita income has undergone an appreciable decline during the past 3 years. Such growth should enable the national economy to make further jobs available.

4. Gradually increasing the local revenues' percentage in the GDP from 31 percent in 1988 to 35 and 36 percent in 1992 and 1993 respectively, with the aim of gradually reducing dependence on foreign aid. Furthermore, the percentage of the aggregate government spending gradually will be reduced. This percentage will be reduced from 49 percent of the GDP in 1989 to 48 percent in 1990 and 46 percent in 1993. As a result of the increase in revenues and the drop in the percentage of the aggregate government spending in the GDP, the percentage of the state budget deficit—before calculating the financial aid—gradually will drop from 20 percent in 1989 to 9 percent in 1993. If financial aid is taken into account, this percentage will drop to only 6 percent in 1993.

5. Increasing exports of national commodities to register a growth of more than 10 percent a year. The processing and mining materials and agricultural products are expected to be the leading exports. We will continue to adopt the financial and monetary policies, which led to reducing imports by 15 percent in 1989, to reduce the deficit in the balance of trade from 40 percent of the GDP in 1988 to around 30 percent in 1993.

The percentage of deficit in the current balance of payment is expected gradually to drop from 6 percent in 1988 to zero in 1993. This will be accompanied by a major effort to build gradually reserves of foreign currency from a total reserve of $350 million in 1989 to $750 million in 1993 by increasing this reserve by around $100 million a year during 1990-1993. Additionally, we have other countries' debts to Jordan, which exceed $400 million, and Jordan's gold reserves.

6. Planning national credits in a manner corresponding to the rectification program's needs and guaranteeing there will be no expansion in credits that may lead to

inflationary pressures. Major restrictions will be placed on borrowing by the government and its institutions from banks to increase the credit opportunities for the private sector. This will support the program's policy to activate the private sector's role and increase its contribution to the national economy.

The government also will support the financial institutions, including the investment banks and the banks which adopt the Islamic banking system, to play a bigger role in investment. This will lead to reducing the rate of inflation gradually from 25 percent in 1989 to around half that rate in 1990 and around 7 percent in 1993.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives: The problem of indebtedness and the burden of foreign debts shouldered by the developing countries is a major problem. This problem constitutes a major obstacle before the developing countries' progress and growth; restricts their economic, finance, and monetary policies; and affects these policies' effectiveness in boosting development in these countries.

The international development institutions and the creditor industrial states have begun to show more understanding to resolve the developing countries' foreign debts problem. These countries have taken some measures through what became to be known as the Toronto Declaration to reduce the burden of indebtedness on underdeveloped states. However, this does not apply to states which have medium income, such as Jordan. In 1989, the international institutions and the creditor industrial states adopted the so-called Brady Plan, which aims at reducing the burden of foreign debts on states with medium income, and this was applied in certain cases. These institutions and states also are studying possibily drawing programs dealing with governmental loans extended to countries with medium income, such as Jordan, aimed at reducing the burden of these loans, as well as the rescheduling of debts.

Jordan has endeavored seriously to benefit from international efforts to lessen the burden of servicing on foreign debt. It has endeavored to achieve this by rescheduling its foreign debts. It also will seek to benefit from any opportunity that may come about through international cooperation in this regard. It also will continue monitoring international developments and will join the developing countries in any collective effort aimed at adjusting the imbalance in the international financial system, lessening the burden of foreign debts on developing countries, and making the creditor countries shoulder their fair share in the burdens of the required adjustment.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives: With Jordan entering 1990, the basics of the Jordanian economy indicate it successfully has started overcoming challenges to its national economy. It made big strides in stopping the retreat in growth rates, in building up its foreign currency reserves, and maintaining the stability of the dinar's exchange rate.

A moderate growth in the GDP is expected this year. Improvement in the trade balance through an increase of industrial, agricultural, and mineral exports also is expected this year, but in a more moderate percentage than in 1989. The decline in the remittances of Jordanians working abroad also is expected to stop due to the stability of the dinar's exchange rate and the restoration of confidence in the Jordanian economy.

Without considering Arab assistance, the budget deficit will show a decrease in the absolute figures, and its ratio to the GDP will decline by 3 percent compared to 1989.

As I explained earlier, the national economy suffered in 1989 from a high increase in price rates, but there will be a marked drop in this rate this year in light of the expected stability in the exchange rate of the dinar and the continued implementation of the government's economic and financial policies.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives: Proceeding from the economic facts I have explained, and in pursuance of the government policy statement submitted to your esteemed House, the 1990 general budget bill is based on the following main factors:

1. Realism and objectivity in estimating general revenues and expenditures.

2. The requirements of national security and pan-Arab defense are not harmed. Necessary allocations to strengthen our Armed Forces and promote their self capabilities were made. This will enable the Armed Forces to continue their national and pan-Arab role. Care and support also will be provided to the Public Security and Civil Defense organs so they can perform their duty of maintaining the security of the homeland and citizenry.

3. Dependence on local revenues will increase through promoting these revenues and improving means of collection. They should cover 82 percent of the current expenditures of 1990 compared to the 73 percent in 1989. This considers the food subsidy provided by the treasury and the Ministry of Supply's trade account.

4. The budget's dependence on foreign assistance will be reduced. Arab financial assistance for 1990 was estimated at a minimum of $360 million compared to $516 million for 1989. Sixty-five percent of this assistance was earmarked for the state budget, and the other 35 percent was allocated to meet obligations of the fund established to cover the non-current expenses of the Armed Forces.

5. The general budget deficit will go up to 362 million dinars without taking foreign assistance into account. This represents about 16 percent of the GDP.

6. Efforts will be made to reduce current expenditures while considering the great financial burden on the budget as a result of the high amounts allocated for the interests of foreign loans in Jordanian dinars, the subsidy of food, and the provision of a reasonable level of social services by the government. In this respect, the total

current allocations earmarked for the Ministries of Education, Higher Education, Health, and Social Development amounted to 127.5 million dinars, an increase of about 9 million—7 percent—compared to 1989.

The estimated current expenditure for the year 1990 increased by 98 million dinars, compared to 1989, to confront the abovementioned financial burdens according to the following main points:

A. Increase supply materials subsidies by 35 million dinars so the amount can go to 60 million dinars.

B. Raising interests on foreign loans by 41 million dinars so they can reach 135 million dinars.

C. Raising expenditure on salaries, wages, pensions, and other expenditures for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health by 22 million dinars.

7. Supporting development by increasing allocations for development and capital projects for the year 1990 in light of available capabilities. These expenditures have increased by more than 2 percent, compared to 1989. This increase will cover financing and extending the infrastructure, as well as service projects in the areas of education, health, and water.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives: Proceeding from these main bases adopted to draw up the dimensions of the 1990 state budget, please allow me to present the most important features of the draft law of the state budget, especially after it was rearranged and after revenues and expenditures were separated from financing according to the customary international method. This is clarified in the following:
I. The Current Budget:

This includes all annual expenditures in the civilian and military sectors, as well as other expenditures, including public debt servicing. It also includes the current revenues covering these expenditures, as well as the current budget savings.
II. The Capital Budget:

This includes expenditure on development projects financed from revenues and the development projects financed from loans allocated for financing these projects. The second item, which usually was included in past budgets, was cancelled. It also includes the capital revenues to cover these expenditures and define the deficit in the capital budget.
III. Financing Budget:

This includes the sources of finance required to cover the total deficit in the state budget and payment of installments of foreign and local loans. The following are the main items of the 1990 state budget:

First:

1. Current revenues
—local revenues: 694.1 million dinars
—foreign aid: 162.6 million dinars
—total current revenues: 856.7 million dinars

2. Capital revenues
—Installments of recovered loans: 50 million dinars
—Total revenues: 906.0 million dinars

Second:

1. Current expenses
—Civilian sector expenditures: 214.2
—Military sector expenditure: 254.8
—Other expenditures, including those of retirement and servicing the public debt: 383.5
—Total current expenses: 852.5

2. Capital expenditures:
—Expenditures of development projects financed by revenues: 151
—Expenditures of development projects financed by allocated loans: 90.3
—Treasury loans to corporations and companies: 12
—Total capital expenditures: 253.3
—Total expenditures: 1,105.8

Third: The general budget deficit prior to financing: 199.1

Fourth: Financing budget

1. Financing sources
—Loans earmarked for development projects: 90.3
—International corporation loans: 162.5
—Local loans: 33.7
—Total sources of financing: 286.5

2. Uses
—Closing the deficit between public revenues and public expenditures: 199.1
—Settling installments of foreign loans: 68.2
—Settling installments of local loans: 19.2
—Total uses: 286.5

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives:

On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to express our thanks and gratitude to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, and Dubai, and other friendly countries for their support of Jordan's efforts to fortify itself, helping it weather its economic crisis, continue to hold its ground, and shoulder its national and pan-Arab responsibilities.

Mr Speaker, honorable representatives:

As the government presents to your esteemed chamber the 1990 draft budget, which sets out a financial blueprint in advance of its debate, I am confident the debate will be conducted in a manner reflecting the aspirations of our beloved country for a decent life led by His Majesty King Husayn.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Besharati Continues Efforts To End Fighting

LD0901115790 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Beirut, Jan 9, IRNA—A plan to end Amal-Hizballah fighting in Lebanon was discussed in Monday's meeting of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, vice-speaker of the Lebanese Supreme Shi'ite Assembly and Iran's First deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Shams al-Din said after the meeting that the plan calls for establishment of cease-fire and withdrawal of forces to the positions held by the two sides before the recent clashes.

He also welcomed deployment of PLO's Yasir 'Arafat forces between Amal and Hizballah zones and believed it would check further clashes. He added that the belligerent parties would be responsible for any "unpleasant consequences" regarding the presence of PLO troops in the area.

Besharati arrived here Sunday night to follow up talks with Amal and Hizballah officials in efforts to put an end to the fighting between the two rival Shi'ite groups.

Meanwhile, Hizballah issued a statement Monday saying that establishment of cease-fire and implementation of agreements signed between the two Lebanese groups with sufficient executive guarantees would be the main condition for ending the recent clashes.

It said withdrawal of troops to previous positions was necessary to materialise this condition. In the recent fighting Hizballah took over some villages from Amal militia.

Amal leader Nabih Birri also should agree to the implementation of previous agreements reached between Amal and Hizballah in Tehran and Damascus otherwise a new war would break out and the clashes would continue, it said.

"Those intending to invade and crush the positions of the Islamic Resistance should not expect to be welcomed with flowers because the Islamic Resistance will use all its might to cut off the hands of the aggressors," the statement said.

Hizballah also condemend the interference of PLO forces in the recent clashes between Amal and Hizballah and said this has added to the importance of the need to settle the existing disputes between the two Muslim groups through peaceful means.

Meets Amal; Withdrawal Planned

LD0901173590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] delegation to Lebanon, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, is continuing efforts to terminate clashes and eliminate existing differences between the Amal Movement and the revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon.

To this end, Mr Besharati met and conferred with the head of the Amal Movement today at noon. After this meeting, the deputy foreign minister announced the two sides, while thanking the IRI for its assistance, declared they were ready to cooperate with the Iranian delegation in every way. He added: On the basis of the plan that has been agreed on, a cease-fire will be enforced while the forces are due to withdraw, so conditions may be prepared for the implementation of the Damascus agreement.

According to our reporter, the withdrawal of forces will take place tomorrow. At the same time, those captured by the two sides will be exchanged. Mr Besharati also met and conferred today with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and last night with members of the Assembly of Muslim Ulema [Tajammo'-e Ulema-ye Moslemin], the central committee of the revolutionary Hizballah movement, and Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qablan, the Ja'farite mufti of Lebanon.

Birri, Besharati Discuss Fighting

NC0901131890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri today received Iranian envoy Mohammad 'Ali Besharati and members of his delegation. Dr Ayyub Humayyid, Amal Movement executive committee chairman, also attended the meeting. The conferees discussed current efforts to end the tense situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah and restore normality as stipulated in the Damascus agreement signed last year between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

After the meeting, Minister Birri said the Iranian envoy had brought a clear-cut decision to end the internecine fighting. He reiterated the movement is cooperating with all parties to end the sedition, based on the Damascus agreement.

For his part, Besharati declared the cessation of fighting and the withdrawals from Iqlim al-Tuffah soon will take place.

Ahmad Jibril, Al-Tufayli on Amal-Hizballah Clashes

NC0901185490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC], has accused Yasir 'Arafat of inciting Amal and Hizballah to fight so that he might deploy his forces between the warring parties in order to boost his negotiating positions with the Americans and the Israelis. Ahmad Jibril denied that PFLP-GC fighters are participating in the Amal-Hizballah fighting.

Meanwhile, in a press interview, Hizballah Secretary General Subhi al-Tufayli has called on the Palestinian fighters, who have been deployed to disengage the two warring parties, to withdraw. He said: This deployment will not prevent us from moving in the south as we want.

Fadlallah Calls for Quick End to Shiite War

NC0601074790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said the Iqlim al-Tuffah war has started to take a regional and international turn, the goal of which is to encircle the Islamic resistance. He added this resistance should not be allowed to become a ball in the court of political one-upmanship and abuses, because it is a proud achievement.

Addressing all parties, Ayatollah Fadlallah said: We must close quickly the file of this war. It is possible to discuss everything. You are fated to have a dialogue and unity whether you differ or fight, because the enemies will not spare any party. The reality we are facing will affect both parties.

His eminence has also cabled Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, appealing to him to intervene to end the frenzied war in Iqlim al-Tuffah. This war, he said, is harming the major issues, particularly in relation to the confrontation of the common enemy locally and abroad.

In another development, a responsible Hizballah source has said: The media have reported statements by some parties calling for the withdrawal of the resistance fighters, believing withdrawal is a step toward a solution. The source added: This call does not reflect the role of a party seeking to resolve the problem and extinguish the flames of sedition. It shows very clearly the extent of bias in favor of one party against another. We also believe this call bypasses the existing problem, ignores the objective facts, and shuns a radical tackling of the problem. A withdrawal would not be a solution, in view of the evil premeditated intentions and in view of the insistence on not implementing the agreements or giving guarantees.

The Hizballah source went on to say: One result of such a call is it will make the problem worse, because it does not tackle the core of the problem. Any proposal that does not guarantee the implementation of agreements also will be futile.

Concluding his statement, the source said: We hope those parties which claim to be concerned about the shiites will treat the two parties equally. We hope they will make efforts to eliminate sedition and call for a dialogue and understanding and for the implemention of the agreements, so the principal causes of the problem may be removed. We stress our willingness and readiness to extend our hand for whatever is beneficial to our people and nation.

Amal Denies Hizballah Claims on Cease-Fire

NC0501185790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Statement issued by "an information official in the Amal Movement"; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The sedition that has been fabricated and is being fanned by the aggression against the south is continuing. It is indeed regrettable that the champions of this sedition are continuing to implement it by pushing deluded hordes to storm new towns and strongholds. If the allegations made by some senior officials—allegations to the effect that they do not wish to occupy a village or a position and that they are eager to halt the bloodshed—are true, then we say that we had proposed that a cease-fire be observed and that they return to the positions they held before the serious onslaught against the south—an onslaught that only serves partition, resettlement [of Palestinians], 'Awn's scheme, and Israel—was launched.

Ayatollah Khamene'i has made a ruling in this respect. Why are they not abiding by it when we have declared that we will abide by it? Some claim that they have ceased fire unilaterally when in fact they are continuing their infiltrations and attacks on the Amal Movement's positions in the hills surrounding the town of Kafr Hatta and on the approaches to Jarju' and other towns.

The Amal Movement has repulsed three abortive attempts since the martyrdom of hero leader Abu-Jamal. Therefore we declare to the national and Islamic public that the aggressor's claims and statements that speak of peace and fraternity contrast with the reality of the war he is waging.

Amal Source Responds to Hizballah Statement

NC0801183290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Excerpt] A responsible information source in the Amal Movement has issued the following statement:

A leading Hizballah official has issued a statement reiterating the party's insistence on rejecting every peaceful solution that would spare the Muslims' blood and would rescue our kinfolk in Iqlim al-Tuffah from destruction and displacement during winter. In its statement, Hizballah rejects the new Iranian initiative which provides for a cease-fire and withdrawals.

The party insists on conducting negotiations prior to withdrawals, thus violating the stand of the leading scholars of the Shiite sect and the Higher Shiite Council's legislative and executive bodies. Hizballah considers the Shiite Council biased in favor of the Amal Movement. Hizballah's statement runs counter to the stands of the families, clans, and popular gatherings in al-Biqa', the south, and Beirut. Furthermore, Hizballah's statement

blatantly violates the ruling made by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, despite the party's claim of allegiance.

As known, the positions where the Palestinians were deployed on hills were vacated by Hizballah fighters, not by the movement's fighters, because these positions were seized by the party's fighters when they began their treacherous attack.

The Amal Movement is committed to the Damascus agreement. There is an operations room for noble strugglers. They are welcome if they wish to join. But if positions continue to be fortified and villages and hills occupied to expand and annex land to make the south a bargaining card in favor of the enemies of the south and Lebanon, the movement will be compelled to continue its resistance against Israel and its concomitants regardless of their forms. [passage omitted]

The 9-hour truce worked out in Iqlim al-Tuffah has enabled the International Committee of the Red Cross to remove the bodies and wounded from the villages of Kafr Milki, Kafr Fila, 'Ayn Qana, and Jba', which were the scene of heavy fighting during the past 2 weeks.

Palestinian Condemns Deployment of 'Arafat Forces

NC0501181990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] A Palestinian official today warned Lebanon might face the same danger that confronted the Palestinian people in 1948. Abu-Fadi Hammad, secretary general of the Palestinian National Salvation Front and an opponent of Yasir 'Arafat, voiced his hope the Lebanese legitimate government will extend its authority throughout Lebanon.

In response to a question on whether Palestinian deployment in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area is a prelude to resettlement, Abu-Fadi said: 'Arafat obviously wants the fighting to continue so he can expand the area under his control. He added: Anyone who seeks resettlement in Iqlim al-Tuffah is plotting against the Palestinian people.

Fighting Reported Along Beirut Combat Lines

NC0801180690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Intermittent fighting took place today along the Ra's al-Nab' and Primo combat lines in Beirut between 1615 and 1800. Machineguns and rockets were used during the fighting. Meanwhile, a number of mortar rounds fell on the periphery of the French maternity home in the museum area.

Israeli Reinforcement in South Noted

NC0901171190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] According to security reports from the resisting south this morning, Israeli occupation forces have reinforced their positions in Tallusah and Bani Hayyan with troops, artillery, and tanks.

Israeli Forces Shell Al-Biqa', Wound Two

NC0901102590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli forces shelled the villages of Lusi, al-Sultan Y'aqub, and Kamid al-Lawz in western al-Biqa' this morning, wounding two people.

General 'Awn Justifies French Bank Accounts

PM0801151290 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Jan 90 p 6

[Unattributed report: "General 'Awn Justifies His Bank Accounts by the Needs of the 'National Resistance'"]

[Text] Immediately after LE CANARD ENCHAINE's revelations about General 'Awn's Paris bank accounts, the strong man of the Lebanese Christian camp justified the existence of personal accounts at the Paris National Bank—whose existence he confirmed the previous day—by the needs of the "national resistance, which is being subjected to Syrian bombardments."

In a "clarification" given to LE MONDE on Thursday 4 January by Gen 'Awn's press office, the latter explains, after referring to the possibility of legal proceedings against LE CANARD ENCHAINE, that the accounts in question (amounting to around Fr90 million) are "funded by gifts from the Lebanese diaspora" and that "the source of the funds is above criticism and beyond reproach." "The fact that the general avoided the banks of countries in which bank secrecy is complete clearly shows LE CANARD ENCHAINE's insinuations are completely unfounded."

Reaffirming that "Gen 'Awn's government and his army have been dependent on the goodwill of the Central Bank governor, himself a hostage of the Syrian occupier, since 22 September 1988," the communique states: "The funding of the Paris National Bank account and other similar accounts stems from voluntary donations given spontaneously by the Lebanese diaspora, which was anxious to show solidarity with the local population and the national resistance suffering the Syrian bombardments. These funds are intended for the army's essential administrative and maintenance needs and to help the victims of the shelling. The account requires Mrs 'Awn's signature. Owing to the situation in Lebanon, the conflict over the legality of the institutions, and the physical dangers which Gen 'Awn faces every day, it seemed necessary a totally trustworthy person not involved in state affairs should, in case of misfortune, be able to sign to ensure the funds could not be seized or misappropriated."

'Awn Assails Effort To Impose Financial Blockade

NC0501155990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Speech by General Michel 'Awn before a Jesuit College delegation in B'abda; date not given—recorded]

[Text] This is another day of the sit-in, in which we are demonstrating our firm determination to face the world which is conspiring against our existence and identity. We will continue to the end. They threatened us with a military war, and we faced it without fear. We bore losses of life, equipment and property and stood fast. They launched a political and diplomatic war against us. We faced them and stood up to the entire world. We stood fast and won. They threatened us again, and we did not heed their threats. Today they are launching a financial war against us. They want to impose a financial blockade against us. I would like to remind them this war will backfire. We will not be mere defenders who wait for an attack. They will see the results will not be in their favor. They will suffer the consequences.

We seek the friendship of nations, rather than that of governments and departments. In the late 20th century, in today's so-called free world, governments and departments are suffering a decline. They adopt a contradictory approach in their words and deeds. They say one thing and do the opposite, just like the United States and European democracies. Can you imagine the free world supports the occupation of Lebanon? Tomorrow they will present their credentials and celebrate under the yoke of the Syrian occupation. This is the end of a worldwide phase of deterioration under the leadership of the United States, which uses the UN Security Council to interfere in matters beyond its authority.

Tomorrow they will head for the center of kidnapping, terrorism, and drug production and trafficking. Representatives of big and small countries alike will participate in the celebration. This is a black mark against all those who approve of one state's occupation of another and who consecrate this occupation.

We and the small people we represent will win over the big, apathetic world because we are right, and right is might. The might-is-right logic is weak and will collapse before your attack and your steadfastness. Long live the Lebanese people and long live Lebanon. [applause]

Junblatt Says 'Awn's Bank Funds Paid by 'Arafat

NC0501123790 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, believes 'Awn's bank accounts are very large, and the money in these accounts were given to 'Awn personally for suspicious schemes and to personally benefit him.

Junblatt added the $15 million is a downpayment by 'Arafat to Michel 'Awn in exchange for the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon. He warned 'Arafat is the main beneficiary of the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah and said 'Arafat's plan is to occupy Iqlim al-Kharrub and Beirut in collaboration with those raising the slogans of the war of liberation, sovereignty, and independence.

Junblatt called for ending the clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah, stressing the fighting there serves 'Arafat's purpose. Junblatt declared Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] contacted the Israelis to tell them: I am the best guarantor against the resistance operations targeting Israel.

Information Minister on 'Awn's Bank Accounts

NC0501143290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] At a news conference today, Information Minister Edmond Rizq affirmed that the government has taken appropriate measures to retreive the state's funds. He said the matter will be referred to the judiciary council.

Minister Rizq spoke about the accounts 'Awn opened in his name and his wife's name in France. Responding to 'Awn's statement that his account is a current one, Minister Rizq said the account is a savings account that accrues interest. He said although 'Awn claims the account is open for all to see, it actually is a secret account. This is shown by 'Awn's statement that he will lodge a complaint against the French bank for disclosing the account. Minister Rizq wondered why 'Awn opened the account in his name and his wife's name and indicated the people will raise questions about this subject.

Minister Rizq revealed 'Awn is pursuing the officers who are not loyal to him and appointing people to watch them, and that 'Awn has arrested some of these officers. He emphasized 'Awn, who has been talking about sovereignty, is the one who sent envoys to spread propaganda for him in the presidential elections. He mentioned Ministers Albert Mansur and Muhsin Dallul and Fayid al-Qazzi and Riyad Ra'd as being among these envoys.

Minister Rizq underscored his commitment to the al-Ta'if agreement, which he described as the most honorable and noble agreement that has been drawn up for resolving the crisis. He said 'Awn, who is leading a campaign against the agreement, had approved the agreement and had notified the deputies in al-Ta'if of his approval, but he later retracted this approval.

Minister Rizq said: We now are close to completing the legal and constitutional provisions to implement all clauses of the al-Ta'if agreement. Legal experts now are busy doing this.

Minister Rizq said: Noriega, Idi Amin, Somoza, Bokassa, and Ceausescu have gone, and we do not want anyone to have a tragic end.

More Scandals Expected; 'Awn Said To Flee

NC0501181490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Banking sources in Beirut have spoken about the existence of deposits totaling millions of dollars in the name of General 'Awn and his wife in a number of U.S.

and Swiss banks. The sources pointed out these deposits will be at the disposal of Gen 'Awn's wife should 'Awn's life be endangered.

The sources said more scandals in this respect will be uncovered in the coming days or weeks. These scandals especially will affect a group of prominent officers who work with Gen 'Awn, as well as top employees who have received kickbacks amounting to millions of dollars from a state that is financing the partitionist situation in the eastern area.

Meanwhile, French newspapers have expressed the belief Gen 'Awn is preparing for the possibility of a sudden flight from Lebanon to France, where the funds deposited in French banks in his name and in his wife's name will be at his disposal.

Junblatt Invites Militias To Join Army

NC0801194990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, today discussed developments with Army Commander General Emile Lahhud in al-Mukhtarah. Junblatt then met General Lahhud, Staff Colonel Fadi Abu-Shaqra, the papal envoy to Jazzin, and [PSP Official] Antoine al-Ashqar for lunch.

Following his meeting with Gen Lahhud, Junblatt said it provided a good chance to review the situation. Everyone knows it is essential, and I am willing to support this army, led by Gen Lahhud politically, morally, and financially. The tripartite Arab committee must translate its political backing into tangible financial support for this army under Gen Lahhud, so it can extend the national authority represented by the government of President al-Hirawi and Dr al-Huss throughout all Lebanese territories. The threats of partition are increasing in the north, through Michel 'Awn's scheme, and in the south, as demonstrated by the abominable fratricide tearing apart Iqlim al-Tuffah, a beloved part of Lebanon. The disengagement measure 'Arafat took is a step toward expansion and settlement from Iqlim al-Tuffah to other areas. Therefore, our hope and only opportunity in uniting Lebanon and preventing the fragmentation, division, and settlement rests with the army led by Gen Lahhud.

Junblatt was then asked: Do you believe the arrival of President al-Hirawi at B'abda and of Gen Lahhud at al-Yarzah will be delayed? He said this is a detailed question. We have to strengthen this army. We, as armed powers, partisan, and non-partisan militias must join this army and help it defend this homeland in the north and south.

Asked if the military option still stands as a solution to settling 'Awn's rebellion, Junblatt said this also is a detailed matter because, despite his strong propaganda, 'Awn is losing his Arab and international legitimacy [as heard]. Nevertheless, we have to fill the vacuum, and to do that and maintain our credibility, we must rely on the Army.

Junblatt was then asked: Do you believe the militias must join the Army? He said: Yes, but not so that the Progressive Socialist Party militia, for instance, would become a brigade within the Army. They should join as individuals. We cannot create a precedent in this matter. So they will join the existing Army brigades.

Asked about the al-Ta'if accord, Jublatt said as of now, it enjoys Arab and international support, but this support must shift from theoretical to practical measures. Therefore, support for the Army must materialize in a development plan for underdeveloped areas, and the Arabs must honor their promises. In the past, the Arabs promised $2 billion, of which I think $400 million was earmarked for Lebanon. If the figures are correct, let them kindly give us these funds.

Junblatt then was asked: Some Palestinians voiced objections to the Palestinian deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah and east of Sidon. Will you comment on this? He said: We thank the Palestinians who raise these objections, but we have not heard the opinions of the major PLO fronts, like those led by Nayif Hawatimah, George Habash, Ahmad Jibril, or other forces within the Palestinian national ranks. We are awaiting a clear statement from them. We thank the Palestinian Struggle Front led by Abu-Fadi Hammad, but we want to hear voices within and outside the PLO.

Junblatt was then asked: The Palestinian expansion in Iqlim al-Tuffah was termed a conspiracy against the Palestinian issue; what do you think? He said: This is true, but we want to hear it from the nationalists concerned with the Palestinian issue.

Embassies Warned About 'Illegitimate Quarters'

NC0601142690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] As part of the diplomatic siege against mutinous officer Michel 'Awn, the Lebanese Foreign Ministry today sent a cable to all Lebanese embassies abroad requesting them to abide by the directives of the legitimate Lebanese authorities. The cable warns against dealings with the illegitimate quarters.

Papal Nuncio Presents Credentials to Al-Hirawi

NC0601113690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente's credentials today at 1130. Present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Ambassadors Suhayl Shammas and 'Asim Jabir.

Al-Huss Government Deplores Vatican Stand

NC0801075490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Prominent government sources expressed deep dismay yesterday at the stand expressed by the papal nuncio. They said the gap in the Vatican's stand on Lebanon still is there. The substance of this stand has not altered at all, as the change is in form only, the sources asserted.

The sources added: The Vatican's present stand is more harmful than the past one. Outwardly it lets the papal nuncio present his credentials, while in essence, it is biased against Lebanon's unity and the consolidation of the legitimate authority. The sources went on to say if this stand continues it will help strengthen the mutiny in B'abda and will push Lebanon toward more tribulations and dangers.

The sources stated: When the Vatican demands dialogue, it is demanding the elimination of legitimacy in favor of mutiny or is, at best, speaking about the presence of two legitimate authorities and calling for establishing a legal dialogue between them.

It has been learned Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has been in touch with local and Arab parties on this issue. He also expressed satisfaction with the stand taken by the Higher Islamic Shiite Council on this. His consultation yesterday with Arab committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi also dealt with this matter. Prime Minister al-Huss informed the Arab committee of the Lebanese Government's dismay at this stand, particularly in light of the fact the committee is in charge of foreign contacts, the purpose of which is to eliminate the obstacles impeding implementation of the al-Ta'if accord and to enable the legitimate authority to perform its role.

Foreign Ministry Sends Memo to Papal Nuncio

NC0801150390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The Lebanese Government has requested all friendly states, the Vatican in particular, to support the peace and accord march launched by the al-Ta'if agreement and to bring pressure on rebellious officer Michel 'Awn to terminate his mutiny, accede to legitimacy, and apply law.

Acting on the instructions of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, the Lebanese Foreign Ministry today sent a memorandum to the papal nuncio to Lebanon, Pablo Puente. The memorandum reads in part: It stands to reason opposing any article of the national accord charter is a legitimate right for every Lebanese, but no one has the right to oppose or torpedo the accord and peace march, because the chance for peace is incomparable, and it is a crime to waste it.

Al-Hirawi Addresses Diplomatic Corps

NC0801135090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Speaking to 42 accredited diplomats today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi asserted that the diplomats' presence demonstrates their genuine and clear support for legitimacy in the face of attempts to undermine legitimacy, ruin Lebanon, and thwart its cultural message.

Addressing the diplomats, President al-Hirawi said: Today you are backing the Lebanese people, who are determined to end their ordeal at the beginning of a new era, so that they can build the Lebanese state and establish peace.

Al-Hirawi refered to the pain and tragic conditions that have prevailed in the Lebanese homeland throughout the past 14 years and the suffering inflicted by the Israeli occupation and by attempts to impose partition, foreign settlement, and economic deterioration. He asserted that the Lebanese people will not despair or accept the status quo, adding that they are determined to regain full sovereignty over the national soil through unity, which is the first step along the road to this sacred goal.

President al-Hirawi stressed that the Lebanese legitimate authority's resumption of its natural role and the withdrawal of all illegal weapons are the only approach which a capable state can adopt to establish security. This state, he said, must be a strong one which abides by Lebanon's commitment to the UN Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights. It must also abide by Lebanon's commitment to the Charter of the Arab League, of which Lebanon is a founding member. Lebanon has always been loyal to the ties of fraternity and solidarity among Arabs, he said.

This state, he said, must be strong and capable of liberating the south from the Israeli occupation and enforcing the UN resolutions. This strong and capable state must establish the best relations with sister Syria on the basis of mutual respect for each country's sovereignty and interests.

He pointed out that the Lebanese want to restore normalcy in the homeland. They want the displaced and the emigrants to return to their homes, their villages, and towns, he said.

President al-Hirawi said: We seek to achieve an ideal Christian-Muslim coexistence. I believe that modernization is the best approach for salvation, he said.

He asserted that the Lebanese want salvation rather than delay and that they want to struggle to build a state. He said the state will be built and Lebanon will survive, noting that attempts by sectarian fanaticism to hinder our efforts to bring about unity and accord have generated, directly and indirectly, secondary conflicts in different areas, particularly in the South. These conflicts would consecrate fundamentalism and lead to settlement and partition. This would ultimately threaten security

and political stability in Lebanon, the region, and perhaps the entire world, he said.

President al-Hirawi expressed appreciation for all sincere efforts to help the Lebanese in this difficult situation. He addressed special thanks to Arab brothers, commending the outcome of the al-Ta'if meeting which demonstrated the spirit of accord among the Lebanese.

'Awn Determined To Retrieve 'Every Square Inch'

NC0801192890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Tonight, when addressing a delegation representing the inhabitants of al-Shiyah, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said: We will not accept the situation of staying only in the liberated area. We are determined to retrieve every inch of Lebanon. He added: The day of solidarity with the north is the crossing bridge to liberation. The following is a recording of what he said:

[Begin recording] We will not accept the situation of staying only in the liberated area. Our homeland is occupied. The land where we grew up as children and where we have memories is occupied. We want to return there. We want to return to every square inch and centimeter of our land. This Saturday, we will celebrate the day of solidarity with the north, the crossing bridge to liberation. [Cheers and applause] They [not further specified] can infiltrate into Rummanah today. They can speak to a newspaper in France or escalate the situation in Ra's al-Nab'. We will not be diverted. We will rise from the ground and land from the sky to attack the Syrians. [applause and cheers] If the Syrians do not agree they must leave Lebanon today and not tomorrow, then the price for their escape from Lebanon will be the head of the Syrian regime tomorrow. May you live long, and long live Lebanon. [end recording]

'Awn Speaks on Solidarity Day

NC0601174290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Speech by General Michel 'Awn on "the day of solidarity with prisoners and hostages in the terrorists' jails" on 6 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] As the Lebanese people held in the greater prison of Syrian occupation extend their hand in solidarity with the Lebanese, Arab, and foreign prisoners and hostages who are being held in the Syrian jails and torture camps;

As our people stand alone in their fierce battle against those who have made their blessed land an evil spot for exporting terrorism and drugs to the world;

As the Lebanese people build a human chain of their children, old people, and women, extending from the center of their free decision in B'abda to the papal embassy in Harisa to denounce, in their names and on behalf of the entire world, the crime of holding hostages and violating human rights everywhere; and,

When it seems that this Lebanese human chain is the last link between the debased morality of the world and the world of values, ideals, justice, and human rights, it is regrettable and lamentable that the ambassadors of the free world should march in a procession in pursuit of their material interests to present their credentials to a government created by the Syrian occupation in a denial of the Lebanese legitimacy and in violation of all international charters, norms, and laws.

Does this international sideshow not reconfirm the world's recognition of the powers of occupation, terrorism, kidnapping, and hostagetaking which have created this government in Lebanon against the will of the Lebanese and as a blatant challenge to the people's right to freedom, sovereignty, and self-determination?

It is a disgrace for this great world to pursue cheap material interests by confiding, in violation of its moral principles, in the powers of occupation, terrorism, and drugs as represented by a false government which only represents the will of the occupation.

Have those people asked themselves what they can say or how they can justify their action to the families of the hostages, the prisoners in the terrorist camps, and the victims of drugs all over the world?

As for you, free Lebanese, it is a source of honor and pride to you that you are fighting, on behalf of the world, a battle the world is too cowardly to face and sending a message it failed to send because of its preoccupation with material interests, which it gives priority over all principles, values, and human rights.

Your only major sin is that you are a small people who are shouldering the responsibility of expressing the views of the nations whose governments no longer represent their real will to adhere to human values, moral principles, justice, freedom, and peace.

These governments have lost their credibility before their citizens because they neglected their national and human duties to protect their citizens and the international community against the crimes of terrorism and drug trafficking, crimes which are committed under the pretext of false interests and diplomatic proprieties.

If international interests are capable of making governments trample on the bright chapters of resistance against foreign occupation, the people, all the people, can never forget the blood of their innocent martyrs and the names of their great heroes who fell in defense of freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

O Lebanese, in your march today you represent the last thread which still links the world to its ideals. You are the the last torch of right in a world engulfed in the darkness of interests. The true has always triumphed over the false and the light over the darkness.

As for those who today kneel and lower their heads before the tools of occupation, in veneration for their terrorist masters, it is a disgrace for them that history will receive their desperate credentials in palaces established by the occupation on the dungeons of crime, torture, and terrorism and on a land which they turned into narcotic farms and ports to export drugs to the entire world. Long live Lebanon.

Syrians Reportedly Threaten Businesses in North

NC0901124590 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Acording to reports received from the north, the Syrian occupation intelligence forces have distributed leaflets to shop owners and banks threatening to blow up any institution which closes on 13 January in response to General Michel 'Awn's call for a day of solidarity with the north.

Human Chain Protests Detentions in Syrian Jails

NC0601175890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] A human chain extending from the B'abda Palace to the papal embassy in Harisa was formed today to express solidarity with the hostages and the persons kidnapped in Lebanon.

Runners carried a message from the people to Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente, including an appeal to his holiness the pope to seek the release of Lebanese and foreign hostages. The message explained the tragedy of the thousands of Lebanese who were kidnapped and are being held in Syrian jails. A booklet in Arabic, French, and English explained the methods of torture used in Syrian jails.

A mass service will be held in the B'abda Palace courtyard this evening.

UNIFIL on Forces' Failure, Deployment

NC0601073590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Timor Goksel, the spokesman for the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has declared the UN forces have failed to achieve their objective completely because of Israeli rejection and the internal situation. He pointed out the UN forces' areas of deployment all are under the control of the Amal Movement, adding the UN forces are obliged to deal only with the Amal Movement because of the absence of state authority.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-DIYAR, Goksel said: The Israelis are obstructing our mission by preventing us from reaching international borders. In the event of an Israeli withdrawal, we might not be able to deploy due to internal factors, he concluded.

Official To Discuss Parliamentary Elections at UN

NC0501143890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers still are meeting at B'abda Palace, chaired by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn. Current political, economic, and security issues are being discussed.

Ambassador Faruq Abu-al-Lam', secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, who visited B'abda Palace, has stated the Council of Ministers entrusted him with the task of conducting contacts with the United Nations on the question of parliamentary elections. He pointed out he will travel to the United States to make contacts to secure UN-supervised parliamentary elections. He expressed the belief the cabinet will postpone elections for a month so the necessary contacts can be made.

Phalangist Secretary on 'Only Glimmer of Hope'

NC0801200390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Phalangist Party Secretary General Roger Dib today said the only glimmer of hope is the proposal by Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' for a Christian conference to agree on a joint Christian stand. Dib pointed out expanded decentralization is the only way to salvation.

Speaking at an expanded meeting of the Phalangist Party, Dib said the stumbling of the political efforts is reflected in mounting security tensions, countermeasures, the drop in the value of the national currency, assassination attempts, and talk of scandals. He defined five Phalangist-dictated primary points for any quarter to be successful in the internal and patriotic arenas. The most prominent point is the call to all parties to face the nation's facts objectively and impartially, without any one-upmanship and to reach an understanding at home. He emphasized the need to achieve a balanced equation in the national arena and not disregard a strong representation of the eastern areas in any government which actually wants to become a national accord government.

Al-Hirawi Receives Message From Mitterrand

NC0601190690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening received a new year's message from French President Francois Mitterrand. The message was delivered by French Ambassador Rene Ala to Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general. The message reads:

On the occasion of the New Year, I would like to assure Your Excellency of my sincere wishes for your and your family's happiness and my hope the year 1990 will, under your leadership, be the year of peace and entente

among the Lebanese. I reiterate to you France's full support for your great and difficult mission to rebuild the Lebanese state.

Explosion in Al-Awza'i Injures Policeman

NC0601124090 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] A stick of dynamite exploded near the al-Sultan Ibrahim restaurant in al-Awza'i shortly before noon today, injuring policeman Muhammad Daqduq. He was taken to al-Sharq al-Awsat hospital.

Abu-al-Lam' Appointment Renewed

NC0801210490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] A decree has been issued renewing the appointment of Faruq Abu-al-Lam' as secretary general of the Foreign and Expatriates Ministry.

General Michel 'Awn received Abu-al-Lam' this morning and reviewed diplomatic reports with him before the departure of Abu-al-Lam' for the United Nations where he will discuss holding parliamentary elections in Lebanon under international supervision.

Greece, Cyprus To Prohibit Landing of Aircraft

NC0601124890 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has received responses from Greece and Cyprus, stating that they will abide by the Lebanese Government's instructions not to receive any civilian or military aircraft that does not belong to the legitimate authorities or to the Middle East Airline and Trans-Mediterranean Airline companies. This came in the wake of a request submitted by the Lebanese Government to the Governments of Greece and Cyprus in light of the start of operations of Halat Airport [in the eastern area].

Press on Al-Hirawi's Statements to Foreign Envoys

JN0901080590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Supporting Lebanese Legitimacy Means Supporting Accord and Unity," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The determination to achieve accord, unity, and reconciliation conveyed in President al-Hirawi's statements to Arab and foreign diplomats yesterday constitutes a commitment to the principle on which every sincere effort to save Lebanon from destruction during the past years has been based. It is also a commitment to the principles of the al-Ta'if agreement on which all Lebanese agreed.

If we do not believe that there is a single stand, far or near, that can deny the Lebanese their right to achieve unity and reconciliation and to establish a strong state, then neither do we believe that there is a single stand that can allow the advocates of discord and fragmentation to prolong the crisis and continue with their conspiracies at the expense of the homeland's security and territorial integrity.

The declared stands of most world states in support of Lebanese legitimacy based on the al-Ta'if agreement and of comprehensive Lebanese unity, should now turn into a practical denunciation of the divisionism led by rebel 'Awn in the eastern part of Beirut, through which he hampers the national solution aspired to by the Lebanese. This is because any indifference to this reckless phenomenon will eventually serve the large conspiracy being carried out by 'Awn, within the whole world's hearing, contrary to the Lebanese people's will and aspiration for unity, sovereignty, and accord.

On the same subject, TISHRIN says: If the pope's ambassador, speaking on behalf of the diplomatic corps, stressed sincere feelings that 1990 will be a year of true peace in Lebanon, and emphasizing the basic factors of Lebanon's survival, embodied by its unity, sovereignty, and independence, then true peace is not a mere slogan, but a practice and responsibility. Unity requires that all the objective circumstances be secured to help legitimacy end the divisionist state represented by the rebellion of 'Awn's clique. Sovereignty should also be imposed on the hotbeds of division in B'abda and al-Yarzah. Independence also means that pressure should be exerted by the international community to implement the international resolutions for ending the Zionist occupation in southern Lebanon.

Lebanese legitimacy has so far sucessfully led the peace offensive. After exhausting all available means and giving all possible time for international mediation to move, it is now getting ready to entrench Lebanon's unity and Arabism, and to achieve reforms by turning what was agreed upon in al-Ta'if into applied laws and measures. This proves that the march of salvation has begun and will not stop before achieving all its objectives.

Commentator Says Al-Huss Must Pressure 'Awn More

JN0701191390 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 3 Jan 90 p 6

[Article by Musa Khuri: "Ending 'Awn's Rebellion"]

[Text] With the increased support given to the Lebanese Government of national reconciliation and the continuation of efforts to deal with the 'Awn problem and the peaceful ending of his rebellion, the "legitimacy" authority is trying to assert its position as a force for maintaining the unity and independence of Lebanon.

It is true that 'Awn is moving in a dark alley and that he is exposing the country to a situation leading to a dead-end but the legitimate government of the country is fully aware that certain forces may use 'Awn as an obstacle to obstruct the achievement of national reconciliation.

There are, it should be pointed out, two parallel lines that are fully active in the Lebanese political arena: the first is represented by a series of measures taken by the al-Huss government. These measures are quite good but they should be tightened to limit 'Awn's freedom of action in a manner that prevents him from continuing to play the role behind which he has been trying to hide.

The second line which has been growing in force and activity in East Beirut, which contradicts the trend and path followed by 'Awn, the price of which will be ultimately paid by innocent people and by the "man in the street". [sentence as published]

It is now clear that 'Awn is no longer a force to be reckoned with in the Lebanese political scene and arena. Nevertheless, more pressure should be used by the legitimate reconciliation government of Dr al-Huss against the rebel General.

The Lebanese legal Government is accusing 'Awn of illegally spending the huge of sum 15 billion Lebanese pounds. It is, indeed, natural and to be expected that the first months of the current year will witness the implementation of strict measures to implement fully all provisions of the al-Ta'if Accord.

The next few months will probably, indeed, almost certainly witness the end of the rebellion of the "madcap" General. The decision taken by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi to move to Beirut, will serve as a logical commencement of the second stage intended to firmly esablish the force of "legitimacy", which is expected to lay full stress on the unity of Lebanon and the Lebanese people within the adoption and realisation of the reforms, provided for by the new "National Accord" embodied in the al-Ta'if provision.

Establishment of 'Legitimacy' Nears in Lebanon

JN0701202490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, following the exposure of the financial scandals of the rebel officer Michel 'Awn, and his embezzlement of Lebanese public funds, in addition to the several crimes that the reckless general has perpetrated, including killings, assassination, destruction, and expulsion affecting all the Lebanese people and areas without exception, 'Awn has by himself tightened the rope around his own neck. And through his practices he has determined the fate awaiting him, a fate he deserves, at the hands of the Lebanese people. Through the Zionist trumpets and the agent and hired writers, 'Awn tried to portray himself as a man sincere in his proposals. He was able to deceive a number of young people, trying to feed sectarian spirits. However, the wisdom of Lebanese legitimacy and its patience, which stems from its concern about Lebanese blood and souls, have exposed the true nature of 'Awn as merely an officer who usurped power under unnatural circumstances. He is only a tool to implement external and suspect schemes, partition and fragment Lebanon, and stab pan-Arab security in the heart in favor of the Israeli enemy. However, 'Awn himself is fully aware of the fact that it is about time to expose all his slogans and the glory he gave to himself or was given to him by external parties. He was certain that his lies would not be able to deceive the Lebanese forever. This is why he prepared himself to escape punishment by the Lebanese people after he stole the funds of these same people. These funds constitute the price he has received in return for his devastating war and for assassinating innocent citizens in their homes, schools, and places of work. The sides that paid him this generous price were the enemies of Lebanon and of its people's aspirations. By this we mean the Israeli enemy and the regime of murderers in Baghdad.

Although the series of financial scandals, whose episodes began to appear one after another, have earned 'Awn a place he deserves. Still one should be alert against this lying rebel who has stolen the people's money. This is because when the time of his final downfall comes he will destroy all he can and kill all the Lebanese people he can. The successive periods of insecurity and tension fabricated by Zionized cliques on the contact lines in Beirut and the mountain would be the beginning of what the divisionists plan to perpetrate in terms of crimes against the homeland and the citizens. It is certain that Lebanese legitimacy is fully aware of the schemes of the divisionists, which constitute the Israeli reserve force that seeks to destroy the pillars of the Lebanese homeland. From this premise, we can understand the dimensions of President Ilyas al-Hirawi's return to Beirut in light of reports confirming legitimacy's determination to settle the situation politically, and to besiege the divisionists on the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels to topple them without causing harm to the Lebanese.

Popular and official Lebanese circles have expressed satisfaction with President al-Hirawi's return to Beirut because this move would provide legitimacy with the required momentum to tighten the noose around 'Awn, and to complete the administrative, financial, and military measures that would topple the state of rebellion and disobedience, save Lebanon from Zionist plans to fragment and partition Lebanon, and implement the clauses of the al-Ta'if agreement.

It seems that day after day, Lebanese legitimacy comes closer to restoring its authority over all the Lebanese territories, so as to wrest the eastern part of Beirut from the hands of the reckless general, and to liberate the people there from 'Awn's terrorism. The legitimacy is very certain that all Lebanese want to join it to complete its march to go back to the Arab, unified, sovereign, and free Lebanon, end Israeli occupation and expel its agents from all Lebanese territories.

Afghanistan

Government Says 850 Resistance Members Surrender

BK0801162690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 8 (AFP)—A total of 850 members of the Afghan resistance, 150 of them armed, have surrendered to the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah, an official spokesman said Monday.

The 850 men, 700 of them non-combatants, drove up to government camps in western Herat Province Saturday and gave themselves up in response to reconciliation calls by the Najibullah regime, the spokesman said.

The surrender, which could not be verified through independent sources, is one of the largest by the rebels since Mr. Najibullah announced plans three years ago to try to end the nine-year-old war through the reconcilliation policy.

The 150 armed fighters, headed by two wanted rebel commanders, had also surrendered large arms supplies to government forces and pledged support to the Kabul regime, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile some 500 families, comprising 2,000 people, who had fled from six villages in Herat because of fighting, had returned to their homes, the spokesman said without giving details.

He stated the goverment had received information that resistance fighters belonging to the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami had executed a Muslim priest belonging to a rival faction controlled by the Jamiyat-e Eslami in northern part of Afghanistan.

Extremists of the Jamiyat faction in retaliation for the murder killed a Muslim imam or priest, of the Pakistan-based Hezb, led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, the spokesman said, adding that the killings had taken place recently.

Hekmatyar Hints at 'Direct' Talks With USSR

BK0801152090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Jan—Engineer Golbuddin Hekmatyar, Chief of Hezb-e Eslami; Afghanistan has said that preparations for Soviet-Afghan Mujahidin talks are underway. He said this while talking to newsmen informally here Sunday afternoon.

To a question he said he felt that Soviets were giving signals for direct talks with Mujahidin.

He criticised that France wanted to send former King Mohammad Zahir Shah and observed that the decision was tantamount to sending a sick man to death bed. He said Zahir Shah can only be imposed on Afghan nation with the help of the United States and Soviet Union.

Hekmatyar referred to extending invitation to Ceausescu, former Romanian President, by Government of Iran at a time when there was uprising against him in Romania and said that the invitation was generally criticised while France is following the same example and added that it will have to repent on its attitude soon.

Hezb-e Eslami Chief said all Mujahidin parties had almost reached a consensus for holding elections in Afghanistan.

He, however, said that no elected Shura [assembly] can be constituted with consensus, therefore, principle of majority vote ought to be recognised as a basic principle.

He said selected Shura will not be a remedy to Afghanistan question. Answering a question he said United States wanted Afghan Mujahidin to form a Shura by selection.

He said Hezb-e Islami preferred holding of elections on the basis of proportional representation but will be ready to accept any form of election which guarantees one person one vote.

Asked about his opinion of exercise of vote by women in elections he said. "I will support the decision of Election Commission in this regard." He support participation of all big as well as small political parties of Afghanistan in the elections.

Mujahidin Assail French Move To Reopen Embassy

BK0701122290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 7 Jan 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 7 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin have sharply criticized France's reported decision to reopen its Kabul embassy, accusing Paris of "abandoning the resistance" and of making an "unfriendly gesture." They charged France with committing "an offense against the mujahidin and the Afghan nation."

Nawab Salim, a spokesman here for the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, said he doubted the reported decision to reopen the mission had been made by Paris. He called it the first step toward implementing a secret U.S.-Soviet accord aimed at blocking the creation of an Islamic state in Afghanistan.

French diplomatic sources in Paris were quoted as saying Friday that France will name a charge d'affaires for its Kabul mission, which would be reopened "at an appropriate time."

Issaq Pacha, spokesman in Peshawar for resistance commander 'Abdul Haq, was also critical. "It's not a good thing," he said. "France is giving moral support to a discredited regime, imported from Russia, which does not have a popular base. It's like helping, at the last minute, Ceausescu. We did not expect such a move by

the French people." He was referring to the late Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu who was ousted by a popular revolution on December 25 and executed.

Omar Sherdil, spokesman in Peshawar for the Jamiyat-e Eslami faction, called the French move a "deception," adding that "the resistance has been abandoned by France."

By its decision, Paris had given "thumbs up to a Kabul regime... that in no way represents the Afghan people," said the spokesman for Jamiyat, one of seven Sunni guerrilla groups based in Pakistan.

(In Kabul, a government spokesman said Saturday there had been no official confirmation that France or other Western countries would reopen embassies closed since the Soviet troop withdrawal in February 1989, although he said some delegations had visited in the past month to assess the possibility.)

The French Embassy, like nearly all diplomatic missions there, was closed for security reasons after the Soviet pullout.

Mr. Sherdil rejected Paris' argument that it wished to follow events in Aghanistan more closely in view of the several non-governmental French humanitarian organizations operating in that country.

"It's not a valid reason," he said, "because that information was already circulating thanks to the non-governmental organizations and the resistance." He said he feared "that other European countries would follow their example."

"It's an unfriendly act towards the mujahidin and the Afghan nation as a whole," said the Hezb's Mr. Salim. He said reopening the French mission "gives the general impression that the communist regime has been consolidated and is well in command of the situation." Mr. Salim said he rejected the French claim of improved security in Kabul. "I don't think the situation has improved since the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The situation has deteriorated since then," he said.

Mr. Salim said reopening the mission would be a "political" rather than merely "technical" move. "It is part of a general agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. We don't believe it's a decision of the French government. It's a step towards paving the way for the implementation of a secret agreement between the two superpowers to prevent the establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan," he said.

(In Islamabad, Western diplomats said the United States "was not planning to reopen its embassy in Kabul," adding that reports of the French decision had caused a certain amount of "discontent" in the U.S. Administration. The United States, the first Western nation to close its embassy in Kabul, maintains that the situation there remains "unstable," the diplomats said.)

There has been no official reaction from Pakistan to reports of the French decision. Some three million Afghan refugees have fled to Pakistan, which supports the Muslim mujahidin, since the Soviet invasion in December 1979.

Deep differences among the mujahidin have surfaced since the Soviet withdrawal. The guerrillas are supported by Western nations, notably the United States, in their war against the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah. These divisions, coupled with Moscow's massive military support for Kabul, have hindered their ability to achieve significant success on the ground, analysts said adding they had noted a growing reserve among Western nations toward the radical Islamic tendencies that some guerrilla factions represent.

Diplomats Note 'Major' Soviet Arms Shipment

BK0901113890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 9 (AFP)—Major shipments of tanks, artillery and missiles from the Soviet Union have reached the Kabul regime over the past three months, Western diplomats said here Tuesday [9 January]. Thirty missile launchers, 165 tanks, 240 other armoured vehicles and 125 artillery pieces had been delivered, they said. Moscow had also dispatched 470 trucks laden with supplies during the October to December period, the sources said.

The diplomats said T-54, T-55 and T-62 tanks had reached Kabul government forces and 22 ground-to-ground Soviet-made Scud missiles, flown to Afghanistan "recently", had been deployed at launch sites at Dar ol-Aman in the capital between December 21-28.

Scud missiles carry a 700 kilo (1,500 pound) charge up to 300 kilometres (186 miles) and over 1,000 of them have been fired by Kabul forces in their war against mujahidin rebels which has escalated since the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed in February last year.

The diplomats said they were unable to confirm reports on the mujahidin news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] on Monday that the Kabul regime had "recently" received two Soviet MiG-29 warplanes. MIDIA, citing "reliable Kabul sources", said the Soviet Union had also decided to deliver a dozen Antonov 12 transport planes.

Najibullah Addresses Party, Organization Leaders

LD0801172690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, today chaired a consultative session of leaders of political parties and social organizations of the Republic of Afghanistan at Gol Khanah Presidential Palace. Esteemed Najibullah spoke in detail about the need for further consolidation

and expansion of the unity and solidarity of the national, patriotic, progressive, and peace-loving forces.

'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president of Afghanistan, and leaders of the political parties and social organizations then spoke on the future structure of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the enhancement of its role, aimed at the implementation of the humanitarian policy of reconciliation. It was decided that a national commission should be formed composed of representatives of all political parties and social organizations, 'ulema, religious leaders, individual politicians, and scholars, which would draft proposals on the structure, working, and future activity of the National Front for final approval.

Najibullah Receives UN Special Envoy 7 Jan

LD0701170390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] This afternoon, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met at Gol Khanah Presidential Palace with Benon Sevan, deputy to and special enovy of the UN secretary general.

During the meeting, views were exchanged about the efforts of the UN secretary general regarding a political solution of the Afghan issue, contacts made by the UN secretary general with the sides involved, and a number of new developments in this regard.

Koshani, Delegation Depart for CEMA Meeting

LD0801175390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Mahbubullah Koshani left for Sofia yesterday at the head of a delegation to attend the meeting of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. He was seen off by Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy prime minister, other ministers, the deputy head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Protocol Department, and the ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Socialist Republic of Bulgaria in Kabul.

Small Arms Fire Heard Near Kabul Hotel 6 Jan

BK0701004090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1723 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 6 (AFP)—Intense exchanges of small arms fire rippled through central Kabul late Saturday [6 January], but the cause was not immediately known. Unknown gunmen fired bursts of small caliber bullets from at least three directions around the Kabul Hotel located in the center of the city and fired flares into the sky.

The staccato bursts of automatic rifle fire, interspersed with bursts from medium machine guns started at about 7 p.m. (1430 GMT) amid speculation that security forces had struck a resistance hideout inside the capital city.

However there was also speculation that the shooting, which was still continuing after one hour, could be between tribal militia, who have been known to settle internal differences through shootouts.

Diplomats contacted by telephone said they were still in the dark as to the cause of the shooting or who was involved.

The gunfire died down about 90 minutes later with still no indication as to the cause of the clash.

Kabul Radio Details Military Operations

LD0401180190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Quoting a competent armed forces source, the military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports that heroic units and sub-units stationed in Nangarhar Province are mostly engaged in consolidating and expanding their previous defensive positions and carrying out military training.

The joint enemy forces have used heavy weapons during the past 3 days on residential regions of ('Abdul Khalil,) Behsud, Gamberi, and on security posts in Samar Kheyl, Behsud, Sorkh Rud, (Shaykh Mesri), (Kan-o-Qatraghay). They also fired heavy weapons at some regions in Jalalabad city on 1 January. The subunits launched artillery attacks and air raids on the firing positions and points of resistance of the Pakistani-backed armed extremists; 78 of them were put out of action. Six mortars, one BM-12 set, four rocket launchers, one recoilless gun, three motor vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition, and two enemy hideouts were destroyed. As a result of enemy fire, five personnel of the subunits and a child were injured.

The source added that the sub-units and units stationed in Khowst Major District discharged their duties with high morale and combat capability and that they are ready to repulse and foil every attack of the enemy.

During the past 3 days the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have launched heavy weapons fire on some points in the forefront of the sub-units' defensive line and security posts. In retaliation to the enemy fire on the security posts and armed forces defensive lines, the concentration points and positions of the enemy were subjected to artillery and rocket barrages, as well as air raids; 83 warmongers were put out of action. Three rocket launcher sets, four vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition, and two recoilless guns were destroyed.

According to another report, a number of sub-units stationed in Qandahar Province carried out mopping-up and search operations on 1 January in Makwan, and crushed nine warmongers; 78 shells for recoilless guns, 3 hideouts, 9 strongholds, and 2 vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition of the Pakistani-backed extremists were destroyed.

The extremist groups fired heavy weapons at some security posts along the city security belt on 2 to 3 January. In order to neutralize the criminal activities of the enemy, artillery attacks and air raids were conducted against them, as a result of which 25 warmongers were put out of action, and two rocket launcher sets, three mortars, two recoilless guns, and four rockets were destroyed.

India

Foreign Secretary Meets With Bhutto Envoy Sattar

BK0801160790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's special envoy, Abdus Sattar, today held talks with Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh on wide-ranging issues relating to bilateral relations. Abdus Sattar said the Pakistani prime minister has sent him to India as her special emissary, which reflects the Pakistani Government's desire for maintaining and further strengthening good-neighborly relations with India for the mutual benefit of the two nations. He said Pakistan hopes that the Indian prime minister's [word indistinct] outlook for friendly relations will provide a solid base for establishing a relatively better atmosphere in South Asia, which will go a long way in promoting mutual trust and confidence and durable good-neighborly ties.

Abdus Sattar said the Government and people of Pakistan view with great respect Prime Minister V.P. Singh's determination to promote politics based on principles to serve his countrymen.

Later, the Indian foreign secretary hosted a luncheon in honor of his Pakistani counterpart. The luncheon was also attended by Pakistani High Commissioner Bashir Khan Babar and the Indian defense secretary.

The Pakistani special envoy will call on Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral tomorrow.

'Frank Discussion' Held

BK0801130690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] India and Pakistan today had a frank discussion on wide-ranging issues relating to bilateral ties. The visiting envoy of Pakistani Prime Minister Ms Bhutto, Mr Abdul Sattar, and the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, met for over 45 minutes in New Delhi this morning and held extensive talks on various problems. Though the details of the topics were not disclosed, it appears that India's concern over Pakistan's help to terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir could be one of the topics discussed during the meeting.

Official Spokesman on Vorontsov's 22 Dec Visit

BK0201154390 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1438 GMT 2 Jan 90

["Official spokesman's statement on USSR—dated 22/12/89"]

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, the first deputy foreign minister and special envoy of the president of the USSR, accompanied by Oleg Bostorin, head of the South Asia Department, arrived here today.

Mr Vorontsov had 3 meetings today. He had an hour and 10 minutes meeting with the foreign secretary. The foreign secretary was accompanied by our ambassador in Moscow, Shri Alfred Gonsalves and the Joint Secretary in Charge Shri Rajiv Sikri. Vorontsov was accompanied by Bostorin and the Soviet ambassador in Delhi; the second meeting was with the external affairs minister for about an hour and then with the prime minister for a little over an hour.

The central thrust in all 3 meetings was the desire to express, on behalf of the Soviet leadership, their hope that relations with India would not only continue on their traditional level of friendship but would be strengthened. Vorontsov handed over a letter from Mr Gorbachev to the prime minister which apart from sentiments referred to above said that a new impetus must be given to all fields of cooperation. During the meeting with the prime minister, the Soviet delegation expressed the desire of the Soviet leadership to maintain the tradition which has been built up from Jawaharlal Nehru's time, of political interaction at the highest levels. They also spoke of the need for close cooperation on regional and international issues.

I might mention in this context that the external affairs minister has been invited to visit the Soviet Union as early as possible. The foreign secretary has been invited to visit separately. The invitation to the foreign secretary was made in the context of discussions to maintain contact frequently at the level of foreign offices.

In meeting with the prime minister there was a very special emphasis laid on economic cooperation, particularly new forms of economic cooperation which would use opportunities thrown up by the new liberalisation of the Soviet economy. In this context, it was mentioned by the Soviet delegation that efforts should be made to follow up proposals for new joint ventures, especially in science and technology, including new high technology areas, and both sides agreed that this would raise the relationship between two countries to qualitatively higher levels. It was mentioned that in recent times both sides have made continuing efforts to achieve these higher levels of relationship. The Indian and Soviet sides decided to carry forward this process and to concretise matters at the time of the joint commission which is scheduled to meet next year in Moscow. It was important that a lot of preparatory work is undertaken before the

joint commission meeting because this is the time when both countries are finalising their five year plans, and it was desirable that efforts be made to intermesh formulation of such plans. I might also mention in the context of economic cooperation that the advantage of economic exchanges within rupee-trade framework was acknowledged by both sides. Both sides agreed that this should continue.

During the meeting with the external affairs minister, the external affairs minister was invited to visit USSR. The external affairs minister will go to Moscow for the joint commission meeting, but this invitation is for a separate visit. The external affairs minister reciprocated the sentiments expressed by Vorontsov of his desire not only to continue but to strengthen relationships. The external affairs minister said that strengthening and reinforcement of the relationship would serve the interests of both countries. They discussed at considerable length the Malta summit of President Bush and President Gorbachev. They also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, East Europe and other parts of world. Foreign Minister Shevardnadze has been invited to visit India.

In the foreign secretary delegation level talks, emphasis was on bilateral relations and on regional issues with special emphasis on Afghanistan and global developments, with particular focus on East Europe.

Mr Vorontsov is leaving tomorrow morning.

Congress-I Wins Majority Seats in Goa Polls

BK0801163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Excerpt] In Goa, the Congress-I has emerged as the single largest party in the 40-member state assembly, with two more results going in its favor. The party candidates—Mr Francisco Sardina and Miss Sarod Potado—were declared elected from the Curtorim and Benaulim assembly constituencies today. With this, the Congress-I has bagged 20 seats followed by Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party with 18. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Reiterates Stand on Bofors Issue

BK0501162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that the government will not hesitate to disclose in Parliament any information it receives from the Bofors company and reveal the names of those who had received kickbacks in the gun deal. He was speaking to newsmen during a brief stopover at Kanpur today. About the decision of Akali Dal-Mann President Mr Simranjit Singh Mann to boycott the all-party meet on the Punjab in Ludhiana on Thursday, the prime minister said it is not an all-party meet but a rally to pave the way for an early solution to the issue.

Later, addressing large public meetings at Banda and Fatehpur, Mr V.P. Singh blamed the erstwhile Congress-I government for the Punjab and Kashmir problems. He said the new government is trying its best to solve the vexed problems.

The prime minister announced that he would not use official aircraft or helicopter for electioneering in the ensuing assembly polls. He hoped that the chief ministers of the Congress-I ruled state would also refrain from using government facility during elections.

Mr Singh said democratic norms will not be sacrificed for the sake of one person. He said it is with the objective of upholding democratic tradition and principle that the government has decided to grant autonomy to All India Radio and Doordarshan.

Sikh Leader Discusses Reversal on Punjab Meeting

Releases Statement to Press

BK0401080490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann leader, Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, has declined to attend the all-party meeting on Punjab, reversing his earlier decision to take part in the meeting scheduled to be held in Ludhiana on the 11th of this month.

In a statement distributed to the press in New Delhi today by Mr Ram Jethmalani, the Akali Dal leader said he does not expect Mr Buta Singh or the Congress-I to make any contribution to the solution of the Punjab problem. Mr Mann, however, expressed his willingness to discuss the Punjab problem with representatives of the new government headed by Mr V.P. Singh.

Mr Mann, who authorized Mr Jethmalani to convey to the press his views on Punjab, made it clear that he would see to it that not a single drop of innocent blood is shed in Punjab. He said he would give up his life to protect the Hindus in Punjab. He said it was contrary to Sikh teachings that any political change be brought about by violence. Mr Mann squarely blamed the Congress-I for the present situation in Punjab and alleged that killings in Punjab were presently being organized by this party.

Mr Mann visited Delhi yesterday and left for Faridkot hours later after having talks with the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal. Mr Mann made it clear that he would not take oath as member of the Lok Sabha until another Lok Sabha member-elect, Atinder Pal Singh, was not [as heard] unconditionally released from Delhi's Tihar jail.

Touching on center-state relations, Mr Mann said the center should be strong, and he expressed the view that the center could not be strong unless the Punjab problem was solved. He demanded adequate funds for Punjab. He said he will offer his full cooperation and best wishes

to the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, when he comes to attend the all-party meet on Punjab in Ludhiana.

Speaks at Gandhi Assassin's Memorial

BK0701005490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1701 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Amritsar, India, Jan 6 (AFP)—Some 10,000 Sikhs gathered in Punjab's Gurdaspur District in biting cold and rain saturday to witness the start of construction of a memorial to one of the Sikh assassins of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The foundation stone for the temple-shaped memorial to Satwant Singh, one of two men hanged January 6 last year for involvement in the 1984 assassination, was laid by militant leader Baba Thakar Singh as other militants, including powerful Sikh federal parliamentarian Simranjit Singh Mann addressed the crowd.

Mr. Mann in his address flatly reaffirmed that he would boycott an all-party meeting called by India's new government to seek a solution to the bloody Sikh separatist campaign in India's Punjab State.

"I cannot sit with Congress (I) representatives because this party is responsible for the genocide of the Sikhs in both India and the Punjab," Mr. Mann, president of the Akali Dal (Mann) party, told the crowd.

He said however that he would be present on the day of the meeting in Ludhiana District January 11 to receive Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, but without participating in deliberations.

Others to address Saturday's gathering at Satwant Singh's native village four kilometers from the Pakistan border included leaders of the All India Sikh Student's Federation and Mrs. Bimal Kaur Khalsa, a newly elected parliamentarian and widow of another of the assassins of Mrs. Gandhi, Beant Singh.

Mr. Mann's boycott decision, first announced Thursday, was seen as a damaging blow to efforts by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh to end the conflict through consensus. [passage omitted]

Mr. Mann said at Saturday's meeting that he wanted a recall of all paramilitary forces from the Punjab arguing that "policing is a state (not federal) matter and should be entrusted to state police." [passage omitted]

Court Rejects Petition Against Deputy Premiership

BK0901085890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The Supreme Court today rejected a petition challenging the appointment of Mr Devi Lal as deputy prime minister of India. Mr Justice Ranganath Mishra and Justice M.M. Punchi dismissed the petition of Mr K.M. Sharma. Mr Sharma challenged the appointment on the ground that there is no post of deputy prime minister in the Constitution and that he had not taken the oath according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Gandhi Urges Action Against Storing of Arms

BK0401161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has urged the National Front government to take immediate action to prevent storing of arms inside religious places and to apprehend the terrorists. Speaking to newsmen in Bangalore today, he said this is a prerequisite for solving the Punjab problem.

He welcomed the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh's statement, that the Jammu and Kashmir government will not be dismissed.

Punjab Governor Rules Out General Amnesty

BK0701161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Nirmal Kumar Mukherji, says the ongoing review of cases of arrested persons in the state has resulted in the release of hundreds of innocent youths who were alleged to have been sheltering terrorists and raising objectionable slogans. He, however, ruled out giving general amnesty at the stage as demanded by some Akali Dal factions.

Talking to newsmen at the Raja Sansi Airport in Amritsar this afternoon, the governor said more such cases will be reviewed soon.

Mr Mukherji is touring the whole of Punjab, beginning with Amritsar District. He said security measures are being further tightened in the state along with attempts to find a political solution.

The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, says Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, member of Parliament, will join the all-party meeting to be held in Ludhiana on Thursday. At a meet-the-press program in Jaipur, he referred to his talks with the Akali Dal leader and said efforts to solve the Punjab problem will receive the full support of Mr Mann.

The Bharatiya Janata Party says the Akali Dal-Mann should join the collective national efforts in solving the Punjab problem without any preconditions. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party's general secretary, Mr K.L.Sharma, said the complicated Punjab problem warrants a national consensus and involvement of all political parties. He said his party is opposed to any dialogue with secessionists. He also cautioned the government against adopting a policy of appeasement.

Three Bomb Blasts Reported in Kashmir Towns

BK0601090290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew was relaxed in Srinagar city and Baramula town for a few hours this morning. In Baramula, the curfew was relaxed for 9 hours from 0700 this morning, while in Srinagar city a 4-hour relaxation was given from 1200. Curfew has been lifted in Handwor, (Kukwor), and (Tregam) towns. No untoward incident has been reported during the curfew relaxation period so far. However, three bomb blasts occurred in Anantnag, Sopor, and (Nahajia), resulting in damage to two government buildings and one residential house.

Police Kill 3 in Kashmir; Curfews Reimposed

BK0801130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three persons were killed and six injured, one of them seriously, as a result of police firing in Sopor and Srinagar today. Police opened fire in Sopor when miscreants indulged in heavy stone pelting. They also tried to set a bank on fire. In Srinagar, two persons were killed and five injured in Batamala when police fired at a mob. In Anantnag, some unidentified persons fired at a police patrol; no one was injured.

Curfew has been reimposed in Sopor, Baramula, and Anantnag towns.

8 Killed, 15 Wounded in Kashmir Police Shooting

BK0801160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 8 persons died and 15 were injured, 2 of them seriously, in police firing in different places in Srinagar City and Sopor Town. The police firing followed large-scale violence which erupted in different parts of the valley today.

The AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent reports six people died in Srinagar when police fired to disperse violent mobs in Batamalu, Chhota Bazaar, and Sayed Ali Akbar areas. The police also fired in some downtown areas of the city where the miscreants indulged in heavy stone pelting. In Batamalu, a girls' high school and a handicraft center were set ablaze. In Sopor, one person was killed when police opened fire to disperse a violent mob which tried to set ablaze a bank building. In Anantnag, miscreants set fire to a government building, while some unidentified subversives fired on a police party. No one was however injured.

Curfew has been imposed on Anantnag, Sopor, and old Baramula town, and paramilitary forces are patrolling in these areas. The Army has been asked to stand by to meet any eventuality.

Curfew Reimposed in Parts of Kashmir; 12 Killed

BK0901031990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the curfew has been reimposed in Srinagar City and Anantnag, Sopor, and Baramula Towns following fresh incidents of violence. The Army has been called out in those areas to assist the civil administration. Paramilitary forces are patrolling.

Twelve persons died and many others were injured in police firing at different places in Srinagar City and Sopor Town yesterday. The police firing followed large-scale violence which erupted in different parts of Kashmir valley. Unofficial reports, however, put the death toll at 13 and the number of those injured at about 100.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Message to Majles, Country

LD0801201290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Jan 90

["Text" of message from Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to Majles deputies and the Iranian nation; issued on 8 January; place of issue not given—announcer read]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellencies, the esteemed deputies of the Islamic Majles, may your blessing continue. And all members of the brave and great nation of Iran, may your honor and glory continue. It is a great pleasure to see that once again the popular organs, the revolutionary hearts, tongues, and throats, and the Islamic Majles, which is the manifestation of the people's presence and a symbol of their votes, expressed their commitment and loyalty to the principle of vice-regency of the jurisconsult, declared their support for the government and the officials who are trusted by the people, and delivered a heavy blow with clenched fists to the mouths of those who prefer to see our nation beset by division, panic, and despondency. The nature of the complex conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic system, which stems from their deep grudge against Islam and Muslims, warns every aware and sympathetic individual to become ever more alert and watchful, and makes personal and political piety a must and an obligation, particularly for those who play a greater part in running the country's affairs.

I, while being grateful to all the individuals and named groups, which declared their stance to honor the unity and strengthen the link between the government and the nation, and particularly to the esteemed deputies of the Islamic Majles, who through their decisive majority practically demonstrated that there is no discord on the essential issues, would like to explain several points to all the brothers and sisters, and the entire nation of Iran.

One: Unity among various strata of people and the trust and kindness between the nation and the government is

one of the most important reasons for the success and strength of the nation of Iran in the face of the enemies' hostilities and conspiracies during the past 10 years. Our dear late imam—may God be satisfied with his deeds—therefore, emphasized this point more than anything else. Now that the enemies have not achieved anything by imposing the war, economic pressures, and the propaganda boycott aimed at bringing the Iranian nation to its knees, they have concentrated their main efforts on creating division in the ranks of you, the dear nation and the esteemed officials, and in view of the damaging loss of our great imam, they now attach hope to their success in this satanic move. Everyone whose heart is beating for Islam and the country's independence and honor is dutybound today to guard the unity of the nation's ranks, more than ever before, and refrain from dragging personal and political taste to confrontation and division. The esteemed deputies of the nation at the Islamic Majles should be particularly vigilant, lest their remarks distribute disillusion and despondency from the Majles' public tribute to the entire society—God forbid. They must rather be a symbol of the nation's solidarity, with their words and deeds.

Two: Everyone knows that our dear late imam always considered it a prime duty of his and others to support the government, and during the past 10 years, with every fatherly instruction and guidance, offered his unstinting and generous support to the governments which have been in charge of affairs. This did not mean that the past governments never made a mistake in their deeds, policies, and method of approach; rather, the reason was that it would have been impossible for those governments to shoulder the heavy burden of running the state amid the difficult global circumstances, and with the existence of the large and small sworn enemies, except through the sincere support of the entire nation and, above them all, their leader. The dear imam, by backing the government, was in fact playing a part in his heavy role in the running of the state.

Today, the fresh and competent government, which under the management of an outstanding personality [President Hashemi-Rafsanjani], trusted by the imam and the nation, has undertaken rebuilding of the country and repairing of the devastation of the imposed war, has, through its policies and achievements, amazed and confused the sinister enemies. Those who wish to see Iran always remain poor, in need, and affiliated, and who, through their very complicated and conspiratorial deeds, oppose this government, are gravely concerned with the policies which are moving Iran toward economic development, self-sufficiency, and independence from others. The secret behind the success of the government, the judicial and legislative powers, lies in the entire nation's support for them. Any move or remarks which undermine the morale of the people's trust in these powers, and those in charge of them, and bring the slightest harm to this support is haram-e shar'i [unlawful by religion] and betrayal of the nation.

Three: The Majles is the focal point of the hope of the system, and the manifestation of the power and authority of the nation. It is a sacred place which can and must, always and under any circumstances, prove [beh korsi beneshanad] the vote and opinion of the Muslim and revolutionary nation, and guarantee the people's interest in the shape of regulations which need to be observed, and in the fabric and behavior of the system and government. It is the house of the people, haven of the people's government [daulat-e mardomi], and the manifestation of the values of the pure Islam of the Prophet Mohammad—may God's benedictions and blessings be upon him and his scion—and, according to our late, resourceful imam's interpretation, it is the essence of the nation's virtues. In this Majles, to move away from virtues and to be caught in personal and group biases and be polluted by political and selfish desires, on the part of anyone, is unnacceptable and condemnable [mardud va makhum]. In this Majles, opinions should be based on understanding; and discussions should be conducted without quarrels and squabbles. In any stance-takings and remarks, the will of the almighty, interests of the revolution, and demands and needs of the people should be borne in mind. There has always been a handful of individuals in this Majles who ignored these duties and went astray, and perhaps they may still be there today; but, the categorical majority of the esteemed deputies, who—thanks be to God—in all periods of time moved, and continue to move today, along the rightful path of Islam and revolution, must honor the great blessings of the Islamic Republic and acknowledge God's presence in their actions, votes, and remarks, and they must not exchange the interests of the revolution and the country with any other thing.

Of course, the Majles should always perform its legal duties and use its legal rights, but both the respected deputies and our courageous people are capable of understanding the difference between action based on legal duties, and action based on personal and political biases.

Four: The principle of the supreme jurisconsult and the fact that all major lines of the system join up with velayat as the focal point, the luminous point of the Islamic system and its realization, is the valuable and unforgettable heritage [yadegar] from his eminence, the Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified. In the course of the past 11 years, our people have demonstrated their full devotion and sincerety toward this principle in all arenas, and our great, gracious imam was himself the greatest defender and strongest supporter of this principle and seriously accepted all its requisites [lavazem] and consequences. This principle is the same eternal resource which must solve the problems of the Islamic Republic's system during the most sensitive moments, and on the most dangerous bends along the hazardous path of the Islamic Republic, and must untie the blind knots.

The dear Imam's zealous defense of the issue of velayat and leadership—and without any doubt the illustrious

imam's own leadership did not in the least affect these—sprang from profound understanding and belief in that same truth. And today I, following that great figure, will defend that principle and its requisites with all my being and strength, and with divine assistance I will perform my duties at all times. Any efforts to undermine [khadcheh] the abiding principle of the supreme jurisconsult and obedience to the leader is tantamount to undermining the entire Islamic system, and I will not tolerate this from anyone or any group or party.

Of course, today—thanks be to God—all the individuals and groups following the line of the imam are dutybound to the supreme jurisconsult and obedience to the leader. And it is to be hoped that the grounds for individuals and groups aiming at not being dutybound to these may never be prepared. May Almighty God bestow his guidance and assistance on all of us and may he turn victorious the powerful claws of our Muslim and revolutionary nation over the treacherous hands of the enemies.

Verily God hears your prayers and responds to your call. May God's blessings be upon you. [preceding paragraph in Arabic]

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 8 January 1990

Yazdi Delivers First Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0501161690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 5 Jan 90

[First Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University on 5 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted]

I would like to end this discussion with debate about the news that you have heard that we, according to Article 164 of the Constitution, have assigned a commission—according to a well-worked out set of regulations—the task of constantly scrutinizing the conditions and circumstances of esteemed judges all over the country. The commission will also review reports which are received either in favor or against judges. Sometimes, friendships or disputes and factionalism which exist in the judges' work place are reflected in such reports. However, the commission will review all that, as it consists of three high-ranking judges who are well experienced and knowledgeable about rules and regulations. When they can make decisions themselves on the basis of the law—such as in routine cases—then they will decide. Some cases will be referred to the Judges' Disciplinary Tribunal [Dadsarya-ye Entezami-e Qozat]. Then the tribunal invites that particular judge, and in effect tries him, and then gives a verdict on the basis of religion and law. Some other cases have been delegated to the person responsible for the judicial power by the Constitution, and he will use his authority, which will mean that the judicial organs and the esteemed judges throughout the country will be supervised more carefully. We hope that we never encounter a situation in which we will have to write an order for the immediate dismissal of a judge.

We also hope that all judges behave in such a way that we receive more good news about their complying with the law, regulations, moral codes, and the proper treatment of people, than news about misconduct and disregard for the law and moral aspects.

We hope that all dear colleague judges througout the country pay attention to the issue I just mentioned. With the high respect that we have for the judges, we are not keen, and we will not allow that, God forbid, some people in the judicial power misuse the power of the law.

Second Friday Sermon

LD0501164790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Second Friday Sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University on 5 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I have made notes on several topics for this sermon. I will try to cover as many as possible in the limited time. The first is to express condolences on the anniversay of the death of her eminence Fatima Zahra. [passage omitted]

I send greetings to the world's Christians on the auspicious anniversary of the birth of the great Prophet of God Jesus Christ, and hope that the monotheistic ideology of that Prophet of God and his noble instructions, which are common among all prophets and which have also been included in the instructions of the last of the prophets [Muhammad], are one day obeyed and followed.

My next point is about the principle of vice-regency [Velayat]. Numerous Koranic verses say: Obey God; obey the Prophet and those in authority. The word obey has been repeated in the phrase of obey the Prophet, after the phrase obey God. The Prophet has also commanded that the imams who were chosen by him, as mentioned by name in tales by Jabir, should be obeyed. In turn, the imams left instructions about the periods of their absence. In accordance with our theological, religious, and scientifc standards, obeying the jurisconsult is synonymous with obeying the imam, the Prophet, and God.

It has been said that the Prophet and the imams are impeccable but that the jurisconsult is not, and liable to make mistakes. The answer to that, according to the imams, is: Regarding theological issues and divine instructions, during periods of absence [of imams], the exegetists are emulated and the exegetists issue instructions—are the instructions totally in accordance with true divine commands or not?

About being just or to err, as clearly stated by the impeccable imams, we believe that exegetists may make mistakes when issuing instructions. That is, their instructions may not be in accordance with the gospel truth, but it has been ordered that their instructions be obeyed and followed. It has been clearly stated that they should be obeyed and their instructions respected whether they are correct or not.

Regarding the issue of vice-regency, there is no question of gospel truth. Please note this. Vice-regency, meaning governing and managing the ummah and issuing instructions, has nothing to do with gospel truth and whether this or that command tallies with it. [passage omitted]

Therefore, there is a point to this discussion. I remember when we used to discuss and talk with friends from the Majles. I used to repeat that point. I do not know how necessary it is to pay attention to it. An order or decree is one issue, and to give an opinion whether it is good or better is another issue.

Our scientific and religious jurisprudence says Vali-ye Amr's command and prohibition are the same as the command and prohibition of God and the Prophet. Where there are propagation and prohibition, they must be obeyed just like a command by a ma'asum [the Prophet Muhammad and his daughter and the 12 Shi'a imams who are above making mistakes] or a command by a prophet o God, who are not liable to make mistakes. If you and I think it is perhaps best to do this, or it is best to do that, the discernment of obedience has priority over the discernment of the case, and therefore God has given a clear decree which should be obeyed.

As you know, under our Constitution, our system and our government's basis; the legality of all our government organizations; the cabinet, Majles, the judicial power, and other organizations, are dependent on the principle of velayat-e Faqih [rule by religious jurisconsult]. It is on the basis of that principle that the government enjoys its legality and the right to govern, which belongs to the Creator of the World and God and transfers to the messengers, the imams, the representatives of the imams [nayeb-e imam], the Faqih-e Vali, and the Vali-e Faqih. The obligation to observe obedience and the right to govern flow from that "right to govern" down to the Vali-e Faqih. Therefore, my last word in this discussion, because this issue has been discussed a great deal, if there are other opportunities I will, God willing, discuss more closely an issue regarding management of the judicial system and the mojtaheds [Islamic canonists] who are in the judicial system. If there is someone in charge of the judicial power, and an absolute mojtahed [mojtahed-e motlaq] at the head of a court, how do management relations regarding judicial rights relate to each other, and is obedience imperative in management issues or not? Or a judge can say, I am the absolute mojtahed, and an absolute mojtahed enjoys velayat, and when I feel like it I will attend, when I do not feel like it I will not attend. If I want, I will keep this file, if I do not, then I will attend to it immediately. Or, if he is to be the head of the courts in the center of a province, or a managing director, he can say that I am the absolute mojtahed. I think I should fire that gentleman and replace him with another gentleman. Can he do that? Or in management, as it is connected with the issue of velayat and the government, and it is a branch of the government, obedience is imperative, and the judge who is an absolute mojtahed and is free in issuing a decree or when issuing a judgment, and no one can impose any pressure on him, he cannot enjoy the same kind of independence in management issues, in particular during the time when an Islamic government is in power. [previous seven words in Arabic], which means that the time in which we are now living. I will discuss that issue in detail.

I would like to close the discussion with one sentence—that is, the world should know that in our country, every individual, from the remotest regions to the center, as well as the government, the Majles, the judicial power, related organizations, are all behind the rank of the leadership and velayat and are moving toward the goals of the revolution.

The main goals of the revolution, in the opinion of our general public, in the opinion of the Majles, the government, and the judiciary, possess a high sanctity. Everyone, united, under the leadership, is moving toward the attainment of those lofty goals, and if there is any discussion, debate, difference of opinion, that is entirely natural; that is not a problem. A discussion takes place; the issue is then resolved, and the leader's command resolves the matter when necessary.

Just as was the case during the 10-year presence of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with his deeds and may his noble dust be sanctified, whenever the ruling machinery of the country and the country's leadership as a whole encountered a problem that the internal machinery of the system could not resolve, his eminence the imam, the leader, would intervene, would issue a command, and the problem would be resolved and the matter would come to an end.

Today, too, the leader of the revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i [crowd chants], may his noble shadow continue, exactly in the place of the imam, and with the same responsibilities, keeps an eye on the system as a whole. And if something is resolved internally by the people involved, then so much the better. If it is not resolved, then it is obvious that the leader will resolve the problem and we will have no problem.

The next issue: From the judicial point of view, and as the one in charge of the judiciary in the Islamic Republic of Iran, one question occurs to me. It is not a political matter; it is not a matter of slogans either. I ask: Where does the authorization lie for the U.S. military attack on Panama? On the basis of what authorization did the attack take place? The gentlemen who make claims on human rights, the gentlemen who speak of human rights everywhere—what does that military attack signify?

What is its justification? You say that there is disagreement over the Panama Canal, that there are violations. Very well, disagreements and violations. In all international agreements, usually toward the end of the agreement or violation—that is to say, if there arises a difference of opinion or if someone, without the existence of a disagreement, commits a violation—it is clear what must be done; that is stipulated in international agreements.

The case is possibly referred to a specified international tribunal; sometimes it is referred to a mutually agreed tribunal; sometimes the means of resolving disputes by various other methods are indicated in the course of several articles. Let us assume that such articles do not exist in that accord [the Panama Canal treaty]. Is it the case that with the occurrence of a violation in the opinion of one side the accord can be immediately unilaterally abrogated? Is it another instance of Saddam, who unilaterally tears up the [1975 Algiers] accord on television and who takes commands from his master. Well, this master [the United States] is just like that servant; there is no difference. He tears it up and then says: I do not accept it; unilaterally and one-sidedly. Then, when the issue is raised in high judicial tribunals, they try to make it so that the action is entirely forgotten so that no one even hears that such an action took place one day.

Let me ask from the judicial point of view: If you have a disagreement with Panama about the Panama Canal, in what international tribunal did you raise the issue and find that it would not be resolved so that you resorted to force? Resorting to force is against the law. Resorting to force is against all international regulations. On that basis, as an official at the head of the judicial system of this country, I declare the U.S. military attack on Panama to be a clear and definite violation of human rights and I severely condemn the action. [crowd chants]

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Yazdi Uges Muslim Unity in Lebanon, Afghanistan

NC0501193190 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 5 Jan 90

[arabic Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University on 5 January—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. And fall in no dispute, lest ye lose heart and your power depart. [Koranic verse]

Brother Muslims, peace be on you and the mercy and blessings of God. I would like to start by offering my condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of the daughter of the great Prophet, Fatimah, God bless her soul.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Holy Koran was not meant only to attain the happiness of mankind in the other world and the afterlife. Its purpose was also to enlighten mankind in this life as well. Life in this world is the gateway to eternity in the afterlife. This life is the prelude to the afterlife. This life can bring happiness to us if it is in harmony with the principles and norms of creation and virtuous life and if it is conducted in obedience to the orders of the Creator.

I do not intend here to discuss the philosophy of life and the relation between religion and earthly life. What I want to say, however, is that Islam has brought light to the life of the individual and the community. Man can either live a life of dignity and freedom or a life of subjection and servility to others.

Islam, the final God-given religion, sets out the broad lines for a free and dignified life. The first condition for casting off the yoke of foreigners, particularly the heathen and the infidel, is to understand the principles and norms of social life. Muslims should preserve the cohesion and integrity of the Islamic nation. Muslims should stand together and totally reject the domination of non-Muslims.

Once Muslims are able to live in fraternity and unity, they will attain independence, supremacy, and sovereignty. However, if Muslims live in discord, disagreement, and disarray, they will become servile and subordinate to foreigners.

The enemies of Islam have always understood this fact and worked tirelessly to break the unity of Muslims. They have used every means and promoted many false theories to break that unity.

The enemies of Islam promoted misguided sects and spread the concepts of color, race, and statehood to undermine the unity of Muslims. They wanted to highlight the differences among Muslims to disrupt their unity.

The united Muslim nation has dignity and honor of a special kind and a certain relish and zest. Muslim unity can conquer differences and disputes, particularly when the nation is faced with a common enemy. Muslims can direct their intellects and efforts toward the goal of protecting their unity.

Is this not the time for the brother Lebanese Muslims to understand the realities of the situation of the Muslim nation and learn that internal strife and infighting between Amal and Hizballah only benefits the enemies of Islam? Is it reasonable that efforts and weapons should be wasted in such strife instead of being directed against the usurper entity? Are the Muslim Afghan leaders unaware of the critical stage in the history of Muslim nation? How long will the establishment of Islamic sovereignty and rule in Afghanistan have to wait while time is being wasted over marginal issues? Why are Muslims still dependent on regimes that are servile to the United States, when we can see with our own eyes the

reliance on force and the defiance of laws and established norms by the Great Satan during its bestial onlaught against Panama?

Reliance and dependence on foreigners is totally unacceptable to the logic of Islam. Achieving the spirit of Islam requires fraternity, unity, love, and cooperation among the sons of the Islamic nation.

Brother Muslims, we have to discard our differences or we will lose our dignity and identity. Fraternity, unity, and cooperation are the means through which we will attain dignity. And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse] May God forgive you and me. In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Say: He is God, the one and only; God, the eternal, absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him. [Koranic verse] Peace and God's mercy be on you.

Agreement Reached With USSR on Azerbaijan Travel

LD0601090890 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' suggested in its editorial Saturday that in the wake of the unrest in the Soviet Azerbaijan, free travel between Iranian and Soviet Azerbaijan Provinces be allowed before any move such as unauthorized border crossings get out of hand.

Soviet Azerbaijanis have reportedly torn up fences along the Iranian border destroying border installations in Nakhijevan region in particular and some youths have crossed border river of Aras and landed in the Islamic Republic.

"An agreement on free border crossing between the two governments in the light of full respect for one another's total sovereignty will greatly help to alleviate the seething emotions of people who wish to see their ancestoral land and visit long-lost relatives," the paper believed.

"Kremlin should avoid suppressing Azerbaijani people at all costs," it said noting that "Iranian authorities have already begun moves for preparing grounds for Azerbaijani Muslims' visit to Iran's cultural and religious sites and institutions."

Head of the consular office in the Iranian Foreign Ministry Tale' Masuleh met with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Chaplin in Moscow Friday. According to an IRNA dispatch from Moscow, they agreed that the two countries open tourist offices soon and issue tourist visas in less than 15 days for those who wish to visit the neighbouring country. The Iran-Soviet tourist protocol lays its emphasis on providing transportation facilities for tourists who wish to travel between the Soviet Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic, the report said.

TEHRAN TIMES however believed that the arrangements should not be exclusive to Azerbaijan, and noted that Iran and the USSR have a 2200-km border line along which sit Russian provinces whose people wish to visit relatives and Muslim brothers in Iran.

"If the situation is handled smoothly and logically it will only enhance cultural relations between the two neighbours," the paper concluded.

Tourism Agreement Signed With Soviet Union

LD0601152590 Tehran IRNA in English 1254 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Iran and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement for exchanging tourists. The agreement was signed by the director of the Consular Affairs Department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Tolou Massouleh, and Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Chaplin in Moscow Friday.

According to the agreement the two countries will issue visas to the nationals of each other within 15 days of the receipt of application for same.

The agreement anticipates establishment of tourism information bureaux in Iran and the Soviet Union, as well as special tourism and travel facilities for the people of Azerbaijan republic of the Soviet Union.

'Text' of Majles Deputies' Questions to Velayati

NC0601112890 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Dec 89 p 2

["Text" of letter sent by 74 Islamic Majles deputies to Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, with questions addressed to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on 27 December]

[Text] Following the visit by the late president of Romania to Iran, 74 deputies of the Islamic Majles sent a letter to Hojjat ol- Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Majles, on Wednesday in which they put some questions to the foreign minister. The text of the letter and the names of the deputies are as follows:

To the esteemed speaker of the Islamic Majles, salutations.

With reference to Articles 88 and 137 of the Constitution and Articles 150 and 151 of the Islamic Majles regulations, the respected foreign minister must present himself at the open session of the Islamic Majles and answer the following questions:

1. Why was there a failure to present a correct analysis of events and developments in Romania, resulting in the recent visit of the deposed president of that country to the Islamic Republic?

2. What was the reason for the visit of late Romanian President Ceausescu to the Islamic Republic of Iran between 18 and 20 December 1989?

It may be clarified here that the answers to these questions given by the respected foreign minister to the Islamic Majles Foreign Relations Committee at the 25 December session were not convincing.

[Signed] Yadollah Eslami, Baft
'Alimohammad Ahmadi, 'Aligudarz
Hedayatollah Aqa'i, Fasa
Mahmud Astaneh, Sarband Arak
Morteza Alviri, Tehran
Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, Tehran
Majid Ansari, Zarand
Mohammad Akbarzadeh, Neyshabur
Gholamhoseyn Aqa'i, Hamadan
Asadollah Bayat, Zanjan
Mohammadreza Bahma'i, Ramhormoz
Mohammad Baqer Baqerinezhadianfar, Kazerun
Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, Saqqez
Mohammad Sa'id Taslimi, Tehran
Bahram Tajgardun, Gachsaran
'Abdollah Tateli, Marivan
Mohammad Hoseyn Jahangiri, Qasre Shirin
Eshaq Jahangiri, Jiroft
Najafqoli Habibi, Tehran
Fakhreddin Hejazi, Tehran
Gholamreza Heydari, Tafresh and Ashtiyan
Abutaleb Habibi, Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh
Elyas Hazrati, Rasht
Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, Mashhad
Rahmatollah Khosrovi, Abadeh
Sadeq Khalkhali, Qom
'Alireza Khak, Rasht
Seyyed 'Esma'il Davudi-Shamsi, Ardakan
Majid Dabestani, Bam
Mrs Gowhar ol-Shari'eh Dastgheyb, Tehran
'Abbas Duzduzani, Tehran
Mohammad Baqer Zakeri, Quchan
Rahmatollah Rahmati, Shahreza
Mahmud Rabati, Shahryar
Ahmad Rahbari, Razan
Mohammad Rashidiyan, Abadan
Qahreman Rahmani, Takestan
Seyyed Mohammad Razavi-Yazdi, Yazd
Mohammad Salamati, Tehran
'Alimohammad Suri, Khorramabad
Seyyed Mohsen Shafi'i, Dorud va Azna
Zabihollah Safa'i, Asadabad
Qorban'Ali Salehabadi, Mashhad
'Atefeh Seddiqi (Raja'i) Tehran
'Ali Akbar Taha'i, Ton-e Kabon
Hadi Ghaffari, Tehran
'Alimohammad Ghariba'i, Ardabil
'Alireza Farzad, Bafq, Mehriz
Khodanazar Qasemi, Deyr Tangestan
Seyyed Hasan Qazizadeh Hashemi, Fariman
Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Qoreyshi, Khomeyn
'Abbas Mirza 'Abutalebi, Bo'inzahra'
Hoseyn Mozaffari-nezhad, Tehran
'Ali Mohaqqar, Bojnurd
'Ali Asghar Mortazavifar, Lenjan
Mohammad Mo'ezzedin, Esfahan
Rasul Montajabnia, Shiraz
Seyyed Rasul Musavi, Ahvaz
Mostafa Mo'azzenzadeh, Kerman
Qasem Me'mari, Ahar
Seyyed 'Abdolvahed Musavi-Lari, Tehran
Karim Malek-asa, Malavi
'Abdorrasul Musavi, Mamasani
Hoseyn Najafi-Sani, Roshtkhwar
Ahmad 'Ali Nazaripur, Darab
Mohsen Nariman, Babol
Asghar Nowruzi, Damavand
Seyyed Reza Nowruz-zadeh, Esfarayen
'Isa Valla'i, Tehran
Seyyed Mohammadreza Vaqefi, Esfahan
'Ali Akbar Hamta'i, Neyriz, Estehban
Seyyed Fakhreddin Hashemi, Jahrom

RESALAT on Ceausescu Visit, Unity

NC0601132090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Dec 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Why Weaken the System?"]

[Excerpts] Undoubtedly, the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic is a most important and sensitive issue and affects the destiny of the Islamic Revolution to a considerable degree. This importance was greatly enhanced following the acceptance of Resolution 598, and we were dragged into a major new era from the East to the West of the world. Now we have to protect the interests of the Islamic Republic from a world that does not accept truth and reality.

The guardianship of the Islamic Republic's interests is a matter of safeguarding the interests not of one country but of the Islamic Revolution on a worldwide scale.

With the dismemberment of the communist system, sooner or later the nations of the world will see that Islam is the sole divine ideology which has the ability to govern the world. Therefore, a massive conspiracy is afoot in the world in the cultural, economic, and political fields, aimed at nipping in the bud all Islamic struggles against domination. Has not the danger knell been sounded in the contemporary world, following the U.S. aggression in Panama which was met with either a meaningful silence or outward but meaningless opposition by some of the greater countries and the overt support of Great Britain and France? [passage omitted]

In such complicated circumstances, fraught with innumerable dangers, what is our duty? Should we underestimate the massive plots and numerous dangers which are in the process of being hatched and instead raise trivial and peripheral issues in the Islamic system?

The pretext was provided by lack of attention and an error due to which Ceausescu visited Iran at an unsuitable time. The enemy and the enemy's propaganda apparatus grabbed at this weak point and launched their propagandistic attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Zionists, who until yesterday had extended

maximum support to Ceausescu, and the heads of the Western states who had warmly welcomed him transformed his face into that of a dictator! By flaunting his visit to Iran, they attempted to sully the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Unfortunately, some ignorant individuals, or possibly those with some ulterior motives in the country, entered the foray and, at a time when Panama was burning with the flames of U.S. aggression and people were laying down their lives for freedom in Romania, they raised a clamor of protest directed at the officials of the foreign policy of the hallowed Islamic system. Did they not know that Ceausescu did not become a dictator overnight?

Did the newspapers that demanded radical and fundamental changes in the structure of the Foreign Ministry forget that they themselves had censored the news of the genocide of the Romanian people during the first few days of Ceausescu's visit to Iran? Were they unaware of the sanguinary clashes going on in Romania when they allotted prominent front-page coverage to Ceausescu? Why did these same newspapers censor subjects that were not in Ceausescu's favor when he was visiting Iran?

Now why are they demanding that the officials of the ministry be changed? In addition, some Majles deputies also began questioning the foreign minister, and some are also contemplating his interpellation. Even though the Islamic Republic's ambassador in Romania was removed from office for not presenting an accurate picture of the situation in Romania, IRNA cited an anonymous Majles deputy as saying that the foreign minister's remarks were not convincing! Does this not remove the veil from an arcane trend aimed against the entire foreign policy machinery? [passage omitted]

There are those who grab at the slightest pretext for weakening the system's foreign policy. Are not those who allege that the imam's line has been deviated from or forgotten providing grist for the enemy's propaganda mills? By using the various tribunes [preceding word in English in order to criticize foreign policy for straying from his eminence the imam's stance of "neither East nor West," are they not simply acting in conformity with the propaganda of world arrogance? Are they not endeavoring to bring into the country the tension that exists outside its borders? Now they are reprimanding a foreign minister who enjoyed the imam's support until the last moment and even now is being categorically supported by the eminent leader! [passage omitted on Khomeyni]

Those who have initiated this trend of weakening the system should repent of their sins and not provide further grist for the enemy's propaganda mills. It appears that even those Majles deputies who wish to bring the foreign minister to the Majles should refrain from doing so as a gesture of obedience and allegiance to the eminent leader and take their questions back. To quote the leader of the Islamic revolution, "those who are themselves poised on the forefront of foreign policy" should not be dragged to the rear; the vacating of the trenches on the frontlines will only benefit the enemies of the system and the United States.

KEYHAN on Ceausescu Visit, Role of Press

NC0701134490 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Dec 89 p 20

[Political commentary by Jamileh Keshavarz: "The Ceausescu Phenomenon and the News Media"]

[Text] At a time when the Western news media were striving to play down the news of the U.S. armed attack on Panama and seeking a "substitute news item" on which to focus, the visit by the Romanian president to our country provided the necessary fare for the propagandistic appetites of the media. The Western news agencies left no stone unturned in their endeavors to tarnish the image of the Islamic Republic, and their attempts are still continuing. After all, they have always striven to fish in the murky waters of actions resulting from a thoughtless policy, and this time as well they jumped at the opportunity.

To err in general is natural, and to err in matters of foreign policy in particular is also natural. In the words of Imam Khomeyni: "If we think that we do not make any mistakes, that is in itself the biggest mistake." What is of greater importance is that we admit our mistakes and take steps to rectify them.

Ceausescu's visit to Iran—even though it was an erroneous and uncalculated action—is cause for introspection, and a clarification by the officials concerned is mandatory and necessary. However, if it serves to open up a chapter of "self-criticism" on all levels—whether on the level of officials or of the media—it will be considered a positive aspect in the policymaking of our country.

When it was announced on 17 January [as published] that the Romanian president intended to visit Iran, most officials felt that a visit by Ceausescu, under circumstances when the East European countries were in a volatile state of change and in the throes of local demonstrations, would be pointless. The remarks by the Qom deputy in the Majles at that time deserve mention.

In these conditions the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the press in our country did not take an appropriate and suitable approach to the issues at hand. If the press and the news media had adoptd a proper attitude to the "goodwill of the officials" and in view of their role and obligations had aroused the sensitivity of the officials to the interests of the system and society, it is very possible that Ceausescu's visit would have been postponed. It would indeed have been canceled in light of the developments taking place in Romania.

We would not then have had to witness the Western press and news media presenting the impressive and loved face of our president alongside that of Ceausescu, while simultaneously news reports were coming in of the slaughter of the Romanian people by the country's security forces. This once again provided the necessary fuel for venomous and gall-spewing propaganda against us.

In any case, with the fall of Ceausescu, most of our country's publications displayed an appropriate and timely reaction and demanded explanations from the relevant officials. However, "the phenomenon of Ceausescu's visit" to our country may be considered a topic worth studying for future assessments.

A clear and open atmosphere should prevail around our press and news media, or, to put it more clearly, the political atmosphere in our country should be purged in such a manner that the news apparatus can act as the "society's nervous system" and convey sensitivities with speed, without any fear or apprehension of reprisals.

The Ceausescu phenomenon has shown that the lack of swift action on the part of the press can result in discordant consequences.

Tehran Bazaaris Express Support for Khamene'i

NC0501153890 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Jan 90 p 1

[Excerpts] This morning 131 guild unions, the Islamic Association of the Tehran Bazaar and Guilds, and the Central Council of the Tehran Guilds closed the Tehran bazaar to protest remarks and attempts by irresponsible individuals to create discord in an effort to weaken the country's foreign diplomacy.

The gathering of the guilds unions was held at the imam's mosque and was addressed by Tehran Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nur stressed: If the shah was able to rule Iran for so long and if the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] were able to continue their machinations after the revolution, this was because of the people's indifference. Therefore, the people should foil all plots with their vigilance.

The detailed address by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri will be carried in a subsequent issue.

Members of the bazaars and the guilds gathered in the mosque carried banners and placards and shouted slogans in support of the eminent leader. The participants were so numerous that the mosque was crowded. A 14-point resolution was adopted at the conclusion of the gathering.

The resolution, after observing the anniversary of the martrydom of Her Holiness Fatimah, peace be upon her, stated:

Following the exhortations and the warning remarks of the eminent leadership to some irresponsible officials, we, the devoted guilds and bazaaris of Tehran, declare our complete and unquestioning support for the eminent leadership's directives, and we deem every person, no matter what his position, rank, or responsibility, as dutybound to obey the guardian of the Muslims' cause [Vali-ye Amr-e Moslemin].

Addressing those toward whom the eminent leader directed his warning, the resolution stressed: We, the offspring of 15 Khordad [uprising against the shah], will not permit anyone to tarnish however slightly the exhortations of the eminent leader.

We also declare our categorical support for the government of esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and will spare no efforts to fulfill our obligations.

We will also unequivocally resist all kinds of profiteering, hoarding, opportunism, or obstructionism in the path of the implementation of the 5-year plan, which is aimed at generating employment and boosting production.

The resolution also noted: The dedicated guilds and bazaaris of Tehran will continue to follow the path of salvation blazed by our great imam (may God be pleased with him) and the views of our revered leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, for fighting and struggling against world arrogance, which is spearheaded by the archsatan, the United States. We also hereby condemn the cowardly attack on Panama.

Yazd Official Accuses Khamene'i of Factionalism

LD0501211790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Disputes among various factions are still echoing in the Islamic Consultative Majles about the regime's foreign policy issues.

A number of Majles deputies did not sign the scroll that was produced in support of Khamene'i. At the same time, Yazd Deputy Razavi, while defending the legal rights of the Majles, indirectly accused Khamene'i of factionalism.

The collection of the Majles deputies' signatures in support of Khamene'i took place following the call on Velayati to answer Majles deputies' questions and the meeting of two deputies with Khamene'i.

It is said that during Khamene'i's meeting with those two deputies, he referred to his recent remarks against the hardliners. He said: I did not mean to question the deputies. Previously Khamene'i had termed irresponsible the deputies who had called for the interpellation of Velayati.

Oil Minister Denies Damaged Tanker 'Substandard'

LD0401114190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Oil Minister Aqazadeh spoke to our correspondent today about the damage to one of the oil storage tanks on the tanker "Kharg" in the Atlantic Ocean. I draw your attention to their conversation:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Aqazadeh, as you know, the Iranian oil tanker "Kharg" has been damaged off the Moroccan coast. What is the latest report on that issue?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As you were already aware, one of our oil tankers was perforated during a gale. A fire began. Foreign firms as well as the National Oil Tanker Company managed to extinguish the fire, and the cargo was saved. Salvage companies also tried to repair the damage temporarily to make it possible for the cargo to be loaded onto another tanker we had sent.

Subsequent to the extinguishing of the fire, one of the stores....[changes thought] As you know, an oil tanker has many storage tanks—15 to 20. One of these tanks was damaged, and some of the oil in it has burned and a small quantity of it escaped into the sea in the middle of the ocean.

[Reporter] Some of the media have said that the reason for the accident is the fact that the particular oil tanker is substandard. If that claim is true, and with due regard for the damage such a fact could have on the environment, why was the oil tanker allowed to carry oil?

[Aqazadeh] It is not true that the oil tanker is not up to standard. This is news talk which they usually follow, and, as you have heard, the insurance and rescue company experts and other experts have visited the area. They have also inspected the oil tanker. They have declared that that issue is not correct. The atmosphere which the media have created is more to do with damaging the issue. We now have preparedness. There is no oil spillage. The tanker will be towed to a suitable place, where its oil can be transferred to another oil tanker. The oil tanker will then be taken to a dry dock for repairs.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Dailies Urge End to Amal-Hizballah Clashes

LD0401111490 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA—Three Iranian dailies Thursday carried editorial comments on the recent Shiite infighting in Lebanon and stressed that unity between the rival Amal and Hizballah groups was a necessity.

The TEHRAN TIMES said that merger of the two Shiite forces seemed to be the only solution to the fratricide.

"They should come to think of what a magnificent force and fighting machine they will make together once they join hands in the name of God and for the cause of freedom and struggle against the Zionist enemies," it said.

Stressing that no one but the Zionist regime and the political Maronites in Lebanon "will reap the ominous fruits of such infightings among the Shiites", the daily warned the two Muslim groups that the enemy will use any chance to sow discord among Muslim forces.

"Unity is a religious, political necessity in Lebanon," stressed the English daily.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL warned that the current clashes in Lebanon were a serious danger for that country's Muslims.

"If they do not come to realise their sensitive position and continue their senseless enmity they would be actually on a suicide course," said the daily adding that it was exactly what the enemies were looking for.

"The present grave conditions demand that Amal and Hizballah stop fratricide and use their might in campaigning against their common enemies in one unified front," said the morning daily.

The Muslim groups have to realise that "any deviation from this (unified) path will bring dire consequences on them", it said.

It also said the enemies have tried to divide Muslims or "may be to formalise the existing division of Lebanon into south and north" and isolate Muslims in the South.

It added that they could not reach their goal only by pushing people to the limit through "putting them under pressure and igniting the flames of war so that they would accept what is asked of them".

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI [word indistinct] to the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to the Amal and Hizballah groups calling on devout and vigilant elements in Lebanon to try to find the root causes of the problem and eliminate them.

The daily urged Muslim ulema in Lebanon to enter the scene and prevent further fratricide there.

This is the heart-felt demand of the oppressed people of Lebanon, the Persian daily said.

Association Condemns Anti-Clergy Pamphlets

NC0701125090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Dec 89 p 2

[Excerpts] The Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez Association of Tehran has issued a statement thanking the noble people

of Tehran for their unified presence at the interim elections of the Islamic Majles. The text of the statement is as follows:

The noble people of Tehran have accompished another phase in the Islamic Revolution in a creditable manner, with their deep religious and political understanding and with due regard to the repeated exhortations of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, and in accordance with the emphatic instructions of esteemed leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his shadow continue, regarding the importance of participating in elections which will document the destiny of the revolution, people, and Islamic homeland. In view of this, the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez Association of Tehran considers itself obliged to convey its gratitude and appreciation to all the participants and organizers who endured the trouble of organizing the elections, especially the clergy, university staff, workers, guilds, and cultural figures. [passage omitted]

The only source of immense regret to us was the fact that some people circulated night letters in which they made whatever audacious remarks they could about the clergy. Was it not the same clergy about whom the imam said: Without the clergy, it is impossible for Islam to forge ahead? It is the clergy which ensures the Islamic nature of the revolution. Noble martyrs such as Motahhari, Beheshti, Bahonar, Mofatteh, Mahallati, and Shahabadi are from the ranks of this very clergy. Why should some persons be permitted to circulate anonymous (illegal) night letters and defame and denigrate the hallowed domain of the clergy?

We emphatically request the Ministry of Information to identify, arrest, and bring to trial those responsible for the publication and distribution of these night letters. We would also appreciate it if the Hezbollah nation were to identify the true provocateurs. This act has not only failed to deal any blow to the sincere and dedicated clergy, but has humiliated the opponents of the clergy more than ever. It is obvious that the selfless Basijis' lofty status is free from all such blame. In conclusion, we beseech God Almighty to endow us with success in serving the sacred Islamic revolution, in continuing the path of the imam, obedience to the decrees of the leader, efforts in nation- building, and sincerity in our actions.

Sistan va Baluchestan Launches New Security Plan

LD0301132690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] In the framework of extending national security to the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan and in the wake of implementing the "al-Hadid IV" project, beginning next week a new project known as "Project 123" will be implemented by the central base of the Mohamad Rasul-Allah in a vast region of the frontier between the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan with the Province of Kerman.

In an interview with reporters this morning, the base commander said when announcing this news: "Project 123" is designed to clean up the area and prevent insurgents and smugglers from escaping; it will be carried out in a vast area of the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan. In implementing the project, the Committee of the Islamic Revolution, Army aviation, and the gendarmerie force of Bam will fully coordinate their operations, and points of entry into the province will be put under control.

Regarding the "al-Hadid IV" project, which began on 28 December in the northern part of the Baluchi pass in the region of Bam, the commander said: Through implementing this project, a narcotics smuggling caravan was destroyed; five members of the gang were killed, and seven were injured. In addition, 420 kg of opium, a number of motorcycles, and a vast quantity of arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Five Killed During Seizure of Drugs Convoy

LD0101183190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Due to the efforts of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee, a convoy carrying 12 armed smugglers and corrupt individuals was siezed in the difficult passage heights of Kafut in the Kavir-e Lut area. According to an IRNA report, five smugglers were killed and seven injured and 420 kg of opium residue was confiscated. In addition, a large quantity of weapons and ammunitions was destroyed.

Narcotics Smugglers Arrested; Drugs Seized

LD0201082490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Bam narcotics squad Committee Guards have arrested two smugglers and seized 20 kg of opium. The accused, together with the seized narcotics, were handed over to the judicial authorities.

Also, thanks to the efforts of Bam Committee Guards, the leader of a narcotics supply and distribution network active in Jiroft, Kahnuj, and Bam, which secretly dispatched narcotics to Khorramabad, Borujerd, and Bandar 'Abbas, was arrested. He confessed to possession of 430 kg of opium, five Khalashnikov rifles, and being accessory in the distribution of more than 600 kg of opiates.

Thanks to the efforts of Committee Guards throughout the country, last week, 1,338 addicts, 670 smugglers of opiates—some of whom had been members of 4 narcotics supply and distribution gangs in Khorasan Province—together with 3 narcotics smuggling gangs in Bakhtaran and another gang in Zarand—were arrested, and 634 kg of assorted narcotics was seized.

4 Cities Witness Executions of Drug Smugglers

LD0401155490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] During the past few days, the cities of Ahvaz, Kermanshah, Zahedan, and Nahavand have once again witnessed more executions. Three people were hanged in Nahavand and larger numbers in the three other cities; they were accused of smuggling narcotics. The number of such executions during the past few months now exceeds 1,300.

According to another report, 10 women were flogged in public in Kermanshah; they were accused of nonobservance of the proper Islamic veil.

Pakistan

Bhutto To Send Special Envoy for Indian Talks

BK0701002690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1844 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Jan 6 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is to send a special emissary to India for talks with the new Indian Government of Viswanath Pratap Singh, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Saturday [6 January].

Abdul Sattar, who is currently Pakistan's ambassador to Moscow and was specially summoned for the mission last week, is to leave for New Delhi Sunday, APP said.

He is expected to meet Prime Minister Singh on Monday, it said.

During his talks with the Indian leader, he is expected to stress "the need for removing irritants and for a confidence building process to pave the way for resolving outstanding issues between the two countries," APP said.

The duration of his visit was not given.

Mr. Sattar, who served as Pakistan's ambassador to India in late 1970s and early 1980s, will be accompanied by Foreign Office Director General Aziz Khan, the agency said.

Mr. Sattar is expected "to pick up the thread of dialogue on normalisation of relations between the two countries from where it was left during former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi's government," which ended after November elections. [passage omitted]

Pact To Not Attack Nuclear Facilities Delayed

BK0701092890 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Jan 90 p 1

[From DAWN's Islamabad bureau]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 6: Although the agreement between Pakistan and India to undertake not to attack each other's nuclear installation is said to have been concluded, its enforcement from Jan 1 this year, the target date fixed in December last year by the two Prime Ministers, has not been possible.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had formalised the treaty on prevention of attack on each other's nuclear installation when they had met exlusively about the time the SAARC summit was held in Islamabad. The treaty was to be ratified by the two Governments with exchange of instruments of ratification to become effective from Jan 1.

The exchange of instruments of ratification of the treaty was expected by Jan 1 but for some unspecified reasons this has not happened. Officials here, however, assure that there is no real danger to the exchange of instruments which, they emphasise, would take place soon. The delay that has occurred, it was said, was not for any reason on Pakistan's part. It is surmised that India's new Government under Prime Minister V.P. Singh may have remained preoccupied with some other more pressing State business leading to some slight delay.

SATTAR: Meanwhile, Ambassador Abdul Sattar, accompanied by a Foreign Office Director-General, left Islamabad for Lahore to catch a plane for New Delhi on Sunday. Mr Sattar was called here from Moscow to undertake the mission to the new Indian Government as special envoy of Prime Minister Beqazir Bhutto.

Mr Sattar is expected to deliver a personal communication from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Prime Minister Singh. Officials have not elaborated on Mr Sattar's visit to Delhi but it is supposed to be essentially exploratary in nature to evaluate the possible and likely changes in India's regional policy, particularly on the issues concerning Pakistan which have been under discussion in recent past, such as the redeployment of forces in Siachen area and India's under-construction Wular Barrage which Pakistan holds to be in contravention of the Indus Basin Treaty.

The selection of Mr Sattar to lead the mission to Delhi, which has undergone transition from a Congress-ruled Government to a National Front coalition, supported by both left and right opposition parties, is apparently made in view of his having dealt with the relations with India.

He served as Pakistan's envoy in India for over several years towards the latter part of 1970's and, subsequently, as the Foreign Secretary when a number of issues came up for serious discussion and review in order to normalise relations between the two countries.

Sri Lanka

'Text' of Sri-Lankan-Indian Joint Press Release

BK0701103690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0856 GMT 7 Jan 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral, in response to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne's request that the process of de-induction of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] be accelerated, has said that be would re-examine the possibility of doing so and would make his response known early.

This was stated in a joint press release issued in New Delhi on the conclusion yesterday of the Sri Lankan foreign minister's visit to New Delhi.

The following is the text of the joint press release:

The foreign minister of Sri Lanka, Honorable Ranjan Wijeratne, visited New Delhi from January 4-6, 1990. He was accompanied by Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, foreign secretary; Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, adviser to the president on international relations; General Sepala Attygalle, defence secretary; and His Excellency Mr. S. Kapage, the high commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi.

During the visit, Hon. Ranjan Wijeratne paid a courtesy call on the prime minister, Shri V.P. Singh, and conveyed the greetings of President Premadasa. He also had detailed discussions with the external affairs minister, Shri I.K. Gujral. During the discussions Shri I.K. Gujral was assisted by Shri S.K. Singh, foreign secretary; Shri Naresh Chandra, the defence secretary; Shri L.L. Mehrotra, the high commissioner of India in Sri Lanka; Shri Kuldip Sandev, the joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; Shri R. Sen, joint secretary in the prime minister's office; and other officials. The discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

The external affairs minister re-affirmed the government of India's commitment to complete the de-induction by 31-3-1990 as already stated in parliament.

In response to the Sri Lanka foreign minister's request that the process of de-induction be accelerated, the external affairs minister said that he would re-examine the possibility of doing so and would make his response known very early.

The Sri Lankan side reaffirmed the commitment of their government to ensuring the safety and security of all communities in the North-Eastern Province and to expediting the implementation of the devolution package. The two sides agreed to work jointly towards bringing an early end to the internecine fighting in the North-Eastern Province, including the possibility of arranging a cease-fire.

The two ministers reiterated the commitment of their respective governments to work closely together to further enhance the traditional relationship between the two countries. With a view to achieving this objective and further strengthening Indo-Sri Lanka relations, they agreed to finalise the friendship treaty expeditiously.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka joint economic commission would be held at an early date.

Tamil Leader Urges Cease-fire After IPKF Leaves

BK0801113290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] V. Balakumar, leader of the Tamil group Eelam Revolutionary Organization [of Students], said in Madras that the Indian Government and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi should arrange a cease-fire among various Sri Lankan Tamil groups to avoid bloodshed after the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] pullout of Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province. Mr Balakumar told newsmen after meeting Chief Minister Karunanidhi that fresh polls should be held in the Northeastern Provincial Council. The PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] news agency quoted Mr Balakumar as saying that he has submitted a set of proposals, both long-term and short-term, to solve the Sri Lankan Tamil issue to Mr Karunanidhi.

34 'Subversives' Arrested; Weapons Recovered

BK0701103290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0905 GMT 7 Jan 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—Thirty four subversives were arrested, four surrendered and six were abducted by unidentified gunmen during the last 24 hours. A government communique issued today states that in the Sabaragamuwa Province at Kegalle subversives set fire to the Kondeniya sub post office. In the Uva Province at Monaragala two persons gave themselves up to the security forces. Unknown persons damaged two (33KV) pylons which supply power to the Monaragala District. Nine subversives were arrested at Kataragama.

In the North Central Province Polonnaruwa two subversives were arrested at Rotawewa. In the North Western Province at Kurunegala in Nawagala security forces recovered from a JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] hideout several trap guns and cartridges. Two persons gave themselves up to the security forces.

In the Eastern Province at Amparai during a search operation at Walagambapura security forces arrested four suspects and recovered a shot gun, muzzle loading gun and trap guns. At Gonagolha an unidentified gang abducted six persons who had been involved in subversive activities. During a cordon and search operation police arrested 19 suspected subversives at Kiwalegawa.